Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_                           Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ AM / PM                                                Reading

Book Review Requirements

Heading:

* Write your name and the date at the top of the page.
* Skip a line, and write the title and author of the book

First Paragraph (Introduction)

* Write an introductory sentence that includes a short quotation from the book
* Write a short summary of the book based on the notes you have taken (be sure to include the title and author of the book in your summary)
* Identify the genre of the story and provide support of the genre.

Second Paragraph (Body Paragraph)

* Choose one to three questions for forming opinions about fiction or nonfiction and use these to inform readers about the strengths and weaknesses of your book.
* Use specific examples from the book to support each question you choose to respond to in your book review.

Third Paragraph (Conclusion)

* Reread your second paragraph and decide who would enjoy this book.
* Offer one or two detailed reasons why the book is either a great read or a boring one and who might like it.

**Grammar and Spelling Checklist:**

Remember: Spelling and grammar count!

* **Capitalize** the **title** of the novel.
* **Underline** the **title** of the novel.
* Place a **period** at the **end** of each **sentence**.
* **Begin** each sentence with a **capital** letter.
* **Capitalize** the **names** of people and places.
* Correctly spell the “**non-negotiables” (there/their/they’re, your/you’re, to/too/two, it’s/its).**

**I checked my work before handing it in to the teacher and carefully completed the above grammar/spelling checklist.**

**Student Signature:**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

How to Write a Book Review  
Select two questions/prompts in response to your written book review.

1. Was the book a page-turner? Why, or why not?

• Briefly, give an example of how the events, or what happened in the book, created excitement and kept you interested.

• Or, discuss why a conflict or problem the character faced held your interest.

1. Was it hard to concentrate on the story? Why or why not?
2. Was it boring? Explain why.

• Discuss one or more of these issues: the story contained little or no action; the events or plot did not make sense to you; you could not connect with the main character’s problems, friends, or family.

1. Did you personally connect with one character, event, or conflict? Explain why.

• Explain how you and the character are alike. Do you have the same feelings? Worries? Problems? Hopes? Dreams? Thoughts?

• Have you lived through similar events? Explain how your reaction to a similar event was the same as the main character’s reaction.

1. What about this book made you enjoy or dislike the genre?

• Think about why you enjoy and usually choose a specific genre. Explain how this book or magazine selection met or failed to meet your standards.

• Were there surprises in the story that held your interest? Explain one.

–– Show how the plot or the events contained twists and turns you did not expect.

–– Was the author good at leading you along one path, then suddenly changing?

–– Explain how a character solved a problem or reacted to a conflict in a way that was different from what you thought this character would do.

• Did any chapters end with cliff-hangers? Briefly discuss one.

–– Think about how each chapter left you wanting to go right on to the next chapter to find out what happened.

–– Explain why you do or do not enjoy cliff-hangers, using the one you chose to discuss.

• Was the plot believable or unbelievable?

–– Give one or two examples that show that the plot, or the events that happened, was realistic and could have happened to you or your friends.

–– Give one or two examples that show that the plot was not believable and explain why you feel this way.

Sample Book Review:

Student Name

Date

*Circus Mirandus* by Cassie Beasley

“.... Because when you try too hard to hold on to something, you break it.”  In the book *Circus Mirandus* by Cassie Beasley, Micah’s grandfather is dying and he would do anything to help him. With his friend Jenny Mendoza in tow, Micah sets out to find the Circus and the man he believes will save his grandfather. The only problem is, the Lightbender doesn't want to keep his promise. Now it's up to Micah to get the miracle he came for. The world of *Circus Mirandus* combined with the real-life problem of Micah and his world make this fantasy book a must-read for anyone who wants to be engulfed in actual magic while learning about the magic of family and friendship.

The character I most connected to was Micah, who was doing anything in his power to save his grandfather because he couldn’t imagine life without his guardian. I related to Micah because I know how it feels to lose something or someone close and trying to fight that. However, as Micah learned in the story, there are some things that even magic cannot fix. Thankfully, the book has a great resolution that leaves the reader confident that Micah will have a wonderful life. This book made the genre fantasy come to life. I loved how there was portions of fantasy infused in the real-life world of Micah, Jenny, and his grandfather. I also really enjoyed reading how the characters wanted to use magic to extend Grandpa Ephraim’s life. However, magic was not strong enough to change this circumstance, which made the book realistic, as well. At the end, magic comes to the rescue in an unexpected way!

Anyone who likes to read books that bring different worlds to life through their words won’t be able to put down this book! It’s easy to get captivated by the eloquently described setting, which help to suck the reader right into Micah’s world and Circus Mirandus. The descriptive words make the characters so life-like that you will find yourself rooting for the Tuttle family and strongly disliking Great-Aunt Gertrudis who doesn’t believe in magic or the circus. This book appeals to all types of readers. Readers who enjoy reading about the power of magic will connect to Micah and Ephraim, while readers who enjoy more realistic books will appreciate the character of Jenny, but like Jenny, they will probably be rooting for magic by the end of the book!