



Readers' Favorite[®]

Book Reviews and Award Contest

Book Review Mini-Critique

Below you will find ratings (scale of 1-5) with general descriptions for the major parts of your book followed by your Readers' Favorite review. Although this is just a Mini-Critique, we hope it will give you an insight into how readers may view the different components of your book.

These are the opinions of your reviewer, and although they are not a literary professional, they are an avid reader of books just like yours.

Title: The Case of the Crying Signpost

Author: Tom Xavier

Genre: Children - Grade 4th-6th



Appearance: The appearance of a book can make a significant impact on the experience of a reader, whose enjoyment is often enhanced by an enticing cover, an intriguing table of contents, interesting chapter headings, and when possible, eye-catching illustrations.

4

Plot: The characters of a book should be well defined with strengths and flaws, and while they do not have to be likable, the reader does have to be able to form a connection with them. The tone should be consistent, the theme should be clear, and the plot should be original or told from a unique perspective. For informative books -- those without plot and characters--this rating refers primarily to your concept and how well you presented it.

5

Development: Development refers to how effectively you told your story or discussed your topic. The dialogue should be realistic, the descriptions should be vivid, and the material should be concise and coherent. Organization is also a key factor, especially for informative books -- those without plot and characters. The order in which you tell your story or explain your topic and how smoothly it flows can have a huge impact on the reader's understanding and enjoyment of the material.

5

Formatting: Formatting is the single most overlooked area by authors. The way in which you describe scenes, display dialogue, and shift point of view can make or break your story. In addition, excessive grammatical errors and typos can give your book an amateurish feel and even put off readers completely.

5

Marketability: Marketability refers to how effectively you wrote your book for your target audience. Authors may include content that is above or below the understanding of their target reader, or include concepts, opinions or language that can accidentally confuse or alienate some readers. Although by its nature this rating is very subjective, a very low rating here and poor reviews may indicate an issue with your book in this area.

5

Overall Opinion: The overall starred rating takes into account all these elements and describes the overall reading experience of your reviewer. This is the official Readers' Favorite review rating for your book.

5

Review: Reviewed by Doreen Chombu for Readers' Favorite

The year is 1937, and Nelly Melcham is on her way to Puerto Rico for a vacation but her plans change in Miami when she crosses paths with Timothy (Tim) Morcombe. Tim is on a mission to New Orleans to solve a case for the Governor. Nelly quickly offers to help Tim get to the city and volunteers to assist him in his investigation because she sees that he is no ordinary man. Tim is six inches tall, traveling in a suitcase, and claiming to be a detective. His latest case involves a missing woman, voodoo priests, and ghosts. Do you believe in ghosts? Are you afraid of them? Join Nelly and Tim as they find the answers in *The Case of the Crying Signpost* by Tom Xavier.

The Case of the Crying Signpost is full of mystery, suspense, and comedy. The story took me on an adventure and turned me into a detective. I was suspicious of every character and analyzed everything because I did not want to miss any clues. Tom Xavier is a great storyteller because he made the story intriguing and engaging from start to finish. His descriptions of people and places were picture-perfect, and I loved the concept of Tim, a tiny man traveling around the world solving mysterious cases. The premise has all the ingredients of a movie franchise along with great creativity. I enjoyed the chemistry and banter between Tim and Nelly and despite people underestimating them because of their size, they proved to be the best duo for the case.