

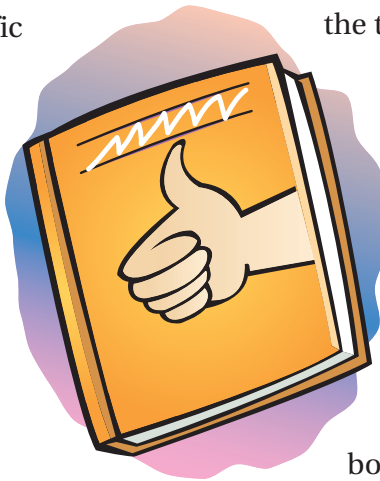
Reading for Success

Strategies for better book reports

Even kids who love to read can dread writing a book report. But there are ways to make tackling book reports easier. Here are some ideas:

Make a plan

- 1. Start early.** Help your child schedule reading. How many days until the report is due? (Subtract a couple for writing.) Divide that number into the total pages your child has to read. This will teach time management—and get the book read.
- 2. Find out** what the teacher wants. Some teachers provide specific guidelines. Others want students to be creative.
- 3. Plan the book report.** Help your child find the main points for the report. Ask: “Why did you choose the book? Where does the story take place? What was the most interesting part of the book?”
- 4. Help your child schedule time** to write, edit and rewrite.



Be creative

- **“Interview” a main character** from the book. The character should answer a series of questions that allow him to discuss his thoughts and feelings about the role he plays in the story.
- **Write a feature article** (including a headline) that describes the story as it might be told in a newspaper published in the town where the story took place.
- **Create an illustrated travel brochure** about an important setting in the book.
- **Make a flow chart** that details all the major events in the book.
- **Pretend that you could** spend an entire day with one of the characters from the book. Which character would you choose? Why? How would you spend the day?
- **Act out a favorite scene** from the book with the help of several classmates.
- **Write a story about a main character** in the book. Set the story 20 years in the future.
- **Create a collage** that illustrates the main ideas from the book.
- **Create an illustrated version** of the story that is suitable for younger students.

Use a graphic organizer

Show your child how to use a graphic organizer with a book report. Have your child:

- 1. Draw the outline of a star.**
- 2. Write the main topic** in the center of the star.
- 3. Fill in the “legs”** of the star with the most important events and details of the story.

