

Book Review Guide for Teachers

The book reviews produced on cubes make great display material. Set them out on a table in the hallway for everyone to see.

There are several points to this review that make it a great learning experience. Computer literacy can be enhanced by requiring the work be in hardcopy. Use it as an opportunity to teach things like the use of the “Justify” option. Accepting only hand drawn illustrations “levels the playing field” by requiring everyone to make an effort to produce some artwork, rather than just allowing those with more change in their pockets to press the button on the photocopier more often.

The issue of plagiarism is an important one for the students to understand. It is not difficult by this time in the year for you to know when you are reading the words of the student themselves, and when you are reading the words of someone else whom they have unthinkingly copied. Discuss the issue with them and inform them of the severity with which plagiarism is dealt with at the university level. One way to help overcome this problem is to require them to submit a first draft to you. You do not have to “mark it” unless you want to. Simply read it and hand it back as OK to go on their cube, or hand it back with the requirement that it be rewritten.

Give the students the assignment at the beginning of the month and allow them the full month in which to complete it. On submission day, the students could share their cubes with their classmates before they are put on display. This allows you a chance to mark them on their ability to make oral presentations. Consider having the students vote on the “Top Ten”. Have the winners take their presentations to other classrooms as well.

January Book Review

The book you read for this review must be NON-FICTION. Choose a book on a favourite topic, like motorcycles, or a particular sport. Read a book about an animal you are interested in, or a country you would like to visit.

Your review will be produced on a cube, using all six sides. In order to have a cube to work with, you can start by drinking two large cartons of milk. Make them the one or two litre size! After you have finished drinking the milk, wash the cartons very carefully, or your book review will smell! Trim the two cartons to the same height and then insert the open end of one into the open end of the other. Now wrap the cube with plain paper and you are ready. One side of your cube must give the title of the book, the number of pages, and the author or publisher. The other faces of the cube must include two picture sides and three fact sides. You must draw the pictures that illustrate information from the book. **NO PHOTOCOPY WILL BE ACCEPTED!** Beware plagiarism! The factual content should be in your own words, and must be done in hardcopy. Cut the pictures and fact sheets to fit the cube sides and glue them on carefully. This assignment sheet, with your name printed on the top right-hand corner, must be included with the cube. Neatness is important!