

# THE BOOK REPORT

A guide to planning and writing your book report

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## 1. Choosing your novel

### 1. There are two parts to this assignment

1. reading a novel
2. writing the report

### 2. Do you plan to read a novel in its original form or a "graded reader"?

3. If you choose a graded reader, it must come from one of the higher levels (check with your teacher).

4. You may choose a novel that was originally written in Japanese (or another language other than English) but you must read the English version of the book and base your book report on that.

5. You must get your teacher's permission if you want to change the book you plan to write about.

6. Make sure that you choose a novel! Non-fiction books are not acceptable for this project. Collections of short stories are also no acceptable.

### What is a book report?

A book report is a short essay that summarizes and describes a book (fiction or non-fiction). It usually includes a personal evaluation of the book. In our class, we will write a 500 word book report containing 4-6 paragraphs. We will write about a novel.

## 2. Getting started

### 1. Provide the following information about the book you will write about.

What is the name of your selected novel? \_\_\_\_\_

What language was the novel written in originally? \_\_\_\_\_

Who is the author? \_\_\_\_\_

How many pages is the novel? \_\_\_\_\_

How many chapters are in the novel? \_\_\_\_\_


Approximately how many words are in the novel? \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. What are the Japanese words for the following vocabulary related to book reports?

protagonist	_____	perspective	_____
antagonist	_____	summary	_____
tone	_____	analysis	_____
theme	_____	conclusion	_____
character	_____	plot	_____
setting	_____	plagiarism	_____
first person	_____	format	_____

### 3. Some tips for writing your book report:

1. Take notes! It is very easy to forget important details as you read the book.
2. Look for recurring themes as you read (see part 7 of this guide).
3. Have an outline for your report. Decide what information (notes) should go in what paragraph.
4. Keep notes of your own feelings about the book.

 **READ THE BOOK!** Sometimes a student will try to take a shortcut by reading a summary of the book or watching the movie version. If you do this, you will miss important information and your book report will probably receive a lower score.

### 3. Reading Chapter 1

1. What characters are we introduced to in the first chapter? Circle the main character.

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2. Briefly describe two or three of the main characters (age, job, personality, etc).

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3. What is the setting (time/place) of the story?

**time** (circle one if you are not sure): \_\_\_\_\_ *a long time ago*    *present day*    *the future*

**place:** \_\_\_\_\_


4. List three things that happen in chapter 1:

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 You should take similar notes for each chapter of the novel as you read it!

## 4. The four main paragraphs of your report

1. For a 500 word book report, four or five paragraphs is a good structure. Here are four paragraphs your report should have. Please match the paragraph with it's purpose.

Introduction	this paragraph gives your analysis of the themes, tone, and characters of the story
Summary	this paragraph gives your final thoughts on the book
Analysis	this paragraph gives some general background information about the book and its author
Conclusion	this paragraph gives a short description of the story

2. Which of these paragraphs do you think should be the longest?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. If your book report is 500-600 words, how many words do you plan to write for each paragraph?

Introduction \_\_\_\_\_

Summary \_\_\_\_\_

Analysis \_\_\_\_\_

Conclusion \_\_\_\_\_

## 5. Paragraph 1: the introductory paragraph

**The introduction to your book report should cover two main things:**

- 1) background information
- 2) a general overview of the story

Background information:

- information about the book
- information about the author

A general overview:

- setting
- main character (protagonist)
- one or two sentences describing the story

**1) Look at the two introductory paragraphs. Which one do you think is better?**

The name of the book I read is "Catch-22". The book was written by Joseph Heller. This book is a kind of war story. I liked it.

### Extra Tips:

- 1) Don't give your opinion about the book (give your opinion in the conclusion).
- 2) Don't make announcements like "The book I read..." or "I will write about..." to start your book report.

Joseph Heller was born in 1923 in New York, America. As a young man, he fought in World War II as a member of the Air Force. Heller's most famous book, "Catch-22" was published in 1961. It was not so popular at the time, but is now considered one of the best war novels ever written. This story is about an air force soldier named Yossarian who makes various plans to avoid combat. Unfortunately, his plans never work and he has to continue fighting.

## using a “hook” in your introduction

Sometimes writers will use a *hook* in the introduction to catch the readers’ attention. The hook is usually the first sentence of the paragraph. Here are six common types of hook you can use in a book report:

1. a question
2. an anecdote
3. a thesis statement (opinion) about the book
4. a quote
5. an interesting fact about the author
6. an interesting fact about the book

Look at the following introductions for a book report on *I Want to Eat Your Pancreas*. What kind of hook is the author using?

How would you react if you found out that one of your classmates was dying of pancreatic disease? That is the exact situation the protagonist faces in the novel *I Want to Eat Your Pancreas*. This is Yoru Sumino’s first novel and was originally published in 2014. The story is about a loner high school student who discovers his popular female classmate’s secret that she is dying.

What kind of hook does this introduction use? \_\_\_\_\_

*I Want to Eat Your Pancreas* is the most boring book I have read this year. Yoru Sumino’s novel has become very popular with today’s young Japanese adults. It is so popular that it has become a manga, an animated cartoon series and a live action movie, but for reasons I will explain later, I found it dull and boring. The story is about a loner high school student who discovers his popular female classmate’s secret that she is dying.

What kind of hook does this introduction use? \_\_\_\_\_

When I was a junior high school student my cousin had cancer. Luckily, she recovered, but I remember how impressed I was with her attitude while she fought the disease. The character of Sayaka in this book reminds me of my cousin. *I Want to Eat Your Pancreas* is Yoru Sumino's first novel and was originally published in 2014. The story is about a loner high school student who discovers his popular female classmate's secret that she is dying.

What kind of hook does this introduction use? \_\_\_\_\_

*I Want to Eat Your Pancreas* is a book that was almost not published at all. It was originally rejected by a publishing company before the author, Yoru Sumino, decided to publish it on a website. From there, the novel quickly became popular and has been adapted into a manga, an animated cartoon series and a live action movie. The story is about a loner high school student who discovers his popular female classmate's secret that she is dying.

What kind of hook does this introduction use? \_\_\_\_\_

Yoru Sumino started writing while he was a high school student in Osaka. Many people assume that Sumino is a female novelist (because of the first name Yoru), but this is actually a pen name, and he prefers to keep his real name secret. *I Want to Eat Your Pancreas* is Sumino's first novel and was originally published in 2014. The story is about a loner high school student who discovers his popular female classmate's secret that she is dying.

What kind of hook does this introduction use? \_\_\_\_\_

"Either one of us could die tomorrow. That goes the same for you and just as much for me." This is what the character Sayaka tells her classmate when the two of them are discussing her impending death. *I Want to Eat Your Pancreas* is Yoru Sumino's first novel and was originally published in 2014. The story is about a loner high school student who discovers his popular female classmate's secret that she is dying.

What kind of hook does this introduction use? \_\_\_\_\_

Which introduction did you like best?



## 6. Paragraph 2: the plot summary

### Some tips about writing your summary

- The plot summary is the second paragraph of your book report (after the introductory paragraph)
- Don't write too much information in your summary. Your summary should be no more than 50% of your report.
- Your summary should only be one paragraph.
- Book report summaries are usually written in *present tense* (not past tense).
- Even if the story is written in first person (I/me/we), the summary should be written in *third person* (he/she/they)
- Be very careful about plagiarism when you write the summary.
- Use your notes from each chapter of the book to write your plot summary.

**Look at the example plot summary below. Can you find the transitional phrases "*the story starts with...*" and "*the story ends with...*" ?**

The story starts with the protagonist, Yossarian, in a military hospital trying to avoid combat bombing missions. He pretends he is very sick so he can stay out of danger. He also tries to convince his superiors that he is crazy, so he should be sent home to America. Unfortunately he is told that if he wants to return home, that means he is not crazy, so he has to continue his bombing missions. This crazy rule is called Catch-22. Everyone around Yossarian and every situation he finds himself in seems crazy to him. His roommate Mudd is dead, but no one seems to realize this; his superiors only care about their own promotions and winning military parades; and another soldier, Milo Minderbender, has started a business in the air force which sells equipment and food to the enemy. Additionally, Yossarian's superiors continually raise the number of missions that airmen must fly before they can return to America. It becomes obvious that this mission increase will never end, and the story ends with Yossarian deserting the military and trying to escape back to America.

## grammar review

**A story starts with a character doing something:**

*The story starts with a high school student finding out that his classmate is dying of pancreatic disease.*

**A story starts in a setting (place or time):**

*The story starts in a hospital waiting room.*

**Write an effective opening sentence to introduce the plot summary for your novel:**

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Plot summaries are usually written in the present tense. This is sometimes called the *narrative present*, and we use it to make our stories more interesting.

**This plot summary has been mistakenly written in the first person and the past tense. Please make the necessary corrections:**

The story began in Kamakura, where I met an interesting man one day. I met the same man while swimming everyday and we became friends. As years passed I learned a lot about this man I called "Sensei", but he had a mysterious past that he wouldn't talk about. One day I received a letter from him that said he was going to commit suicide but first he wanted to tell me about his past. From the letter I learned that Sensei had loved the same girl as his best friend. He had betrayed his friend so he could marry the girl, and his friend had committed suicide. For the rest of his life, Sensei had kept this secret and regretted his actions. The story ended with Sensei asking me not to tell his wife about his past.

**Balance in the plot summary****1) Look at the two plot summaries. Which one do you think is better?**

The story starts with a high school boy at the hospital to have some stitches removed after a small operation. He is unpopular with his classmates but he is quite smart and he reads a lot of books in his free time. While at the hospital, he finds a journal someone has left in the lobby. He reads it and accidentally finds out that his popular and cheerful female classmate is dying of a pancreatic disease. She sees him reading the novel and explains that she is keeping her illness a secret from her friends because she wants to have a normal school life. She asks the boy to keep her secret and the boy agrees. The girl asks the boy if he will meet her on the weekend but he lies and says he has a date. She guesses that he is lying and convinces him to meet her in front of the train station on Sunday morning at 11:00. The girl is very friendly to the boy when she says goodbye, but the boy doesn't wave good bye when he leaves. The story ends with the girl being killed in a random murder on the street and the boy reading the girl's journal and learning her true feelings for him.

(212 words)

The story starts with an unpopular high school boy accidentally finding out that his popular classmate is dying of a pancreatic disease. She is keeping her illness a secret from her friends and the boy agrees to keep her secret. Most of the rest of the plot involves these two characters building a friendship that teeters on the edge of romance. They have a series of dates, including one overnight trip to Kyushu. Gradually, the girl coaxes the boy out of his shell and he learns to appreciate social connections. Even though the girl's life expectancy is less than one year, her life is cut even shorter when she is killed in a random murder on the street. The story ends with the boy reading the girl's journal and learning her true feelings for him.

(135 words)

## 7. Paragraph 3 &amp; 4: themes, tone &amp; character analysis

## theme

## 1. What is theme?

A book's *plot* is said to be the story or the events that happen within it. The *theme* is what the book is 'about'.

## 2. Here are some common themes found in novels.

the importance of \_\_\_\_

**love**

**leadership**

the danger(s) of \_\_\_\_

**money**

**religion**

the challenges of \_\_\_\_

**friendship**

**education**

the power of \_\_\_\_

**technology**

**society**

the futility of \_\_\_\_

**jealousy**

**crime**

the absurdity of \_\_\_\_

**family**

**war**

the beauty of \_\_\_\_

## 3. Use combinations of the words above to write about the themes of famous books and movies:

*A common theme of the movie Pirates of the Caribbean is the challenges of leadership.*

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## 4. Here are some other themes found in novels. Please circle three themes you think are interesting:

• judgement

• good & evil

• man against nature

• lost love

• life & death

• nostalgia

• survival

• suffering

• power & corruption

• heroism

• coming of age

• redemption

## theme (continued)

5. Here are some famous stories. Write two or three themes that can be found in each story:

Titanic \_\_\_\_\_

千と千尋 \_\_\_\_\_

君の隣を食べたい \_\_\_\_\_

Star Wars \_\_\_\_\_

*your choice* \_\_\_\_\_

6. Questions you should think about for your book report:

1. What are the most important themes in your book?


\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Is there an underlying (main) theme that continues for the whole book?

\_\_\_\_\_

 **Important Reminder:**                      theme ≠ genre                      theme ≠ story event

- *adventure, mystery, romance, human drama, comedy* **are not** themes, they are *genres*.
- *murders, crimes, accidents etc.* **are not** themes, they are *story events*


## tone

**1. What is tone?**

Tone is the *attitude* of the author towards the story. Authors use tone to make readers feel certain emotions while reading:

**2. Match the tone with how it makes the reader feel:**

gloomy	—	makes us laugh or smile
suspenseful		makes us feel sad
humorous		makes us feel amused by irony
sarcastic		makes us feel nervous

 There are many other words that can be used to describe tone, including *optimistic* and *pessimistic*.

**3. Determining tone**

The author's tone can be determined through 1) the choice of words in the book 2) the book's imagery (setting, scene, and characters).

**4. Look at the two pieces of writing below and determine what tone the author is using.**

It was a dark and stormy night. The rain was falling hard on the roof, when suddenly the car slowed and came to a stop. Jenny asked what the problem was and Frank informed her that they were out of gas.

"Maybe someone in that old house has some gas we can borrow" Frank suggested. He pointed to an old house just up the road. It looked like no one had lived there for many years.

As they approached the the old house, Jenny suddenly heard a woman's scream come from inside. Frank yelled "Hurry! It sounds like someone needs our help!" and ran towards the door. Jenny had a feeling that they were making a big mistake, and danger was waiting for them inside.

Tom was so late for school that he forgot to put on his belt while getting dressed. Unfortunately his jeans were too big for him and his pants fell down around his ankles as he ran out of the house. Tom tripped on his pants and sent flying through the air, landing face first in a big puddle of mud. Mr. Johnston was usually a very serious man, but when he saw Tom standing up with no pants and his face covered in mud, he laughed and laughed.

## narrators

**1. What is a narrator?**

Simply put, the narrator is the voice that is telling the story. Narrators are usually *first person* or *third person* narrators. Most third person narrators can also be described as *omniscient* (they know everything about all characters, even their secret thoughts) or *observer* (they know only what can be easily seen).

*first person narrator* is a character in the story; uses “I” and “me”

*third person narrator* is usually not a character in the story

**2. Look at the two pieces of writing below and determine what kind of narrator the author has created. Is it a *first person* or *third person* narrator? If it is a third person narrator, is it an *omniscient* or *observer* narrator?**

The Dursleys hadn't even remembered that today happened to be Harry's 12th birthday. Of course, his hopes hadn't been high; they'd never given him a real present, let alone a cake - but to ignore it completely...

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets by J.K. Rowling

Narrator type: \_\_\_\_\_

It was times like these when I thought my father, who hated guns and had never been to any wars, was the bravest man who ever lived.

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Narrator type: \_\_\_\_\_

## character analysis

### 1. Protagonist and antagonist

First you should identify the story's *protagonist* and *antagonist* (if there is one).

*protagonist* = the main character

*antagonist* = a character who represents a challenge to the protagonist; sometimes we call this character "*the bad guy*".

Who is the protagonist of your novel? \_\_\_\_\_

Are there any antagonists in your novel? \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Other characters

As you get to know a character, you may discover that he or she fits one of these character types:

*Flat (or static) Character:* A flat character is a simple character that doesn't change. The flat character can play a major or a minor role.

*Round Character:* A round character has many complex traits; and may develop or change throughout the story.

*Stock or Stereotype Character:* Stock characters are stereotypes. They are often found in genre fiction (romance novels and mysteries, for example), and are usually flat characters.


*Dynamic Character:* Unlike a static character, a dynamic character does change and grow as the story unfolds.

**Try to match each of these character types with a character in the novel you are reading.**

### 3. Analyzing characters

**Here are some questions you can ask yourself about the characters in your novel.**

- How does the author describe them?
- What kinds of relationships does your character have with other characters?
- How do the actions of your character move the plot forward?
- What struggles does your character encounter?
- How does the character grow or develop throughout the story?

 Of course you should not provide a character analysis for every character in the story! Choose one or two characters that you think are important or are interesting to you.



## example

Read the example analysis section of a book report below.

The main recurring theme of *Catch-22* is the absurdity of war. The book tries to impress upon the reader that nothing in war makes sense; everything is crazy. Of course these absurdities are exaggerated, but I think that makes the novel more enjoyable to read. Heller uses a very cynic tone in this book; good men are always punished and stupid cowards are always rewarded. While he sometimes uses a light-hearted tone to describe strange events, those events often have serious consequences for the book's characters.

Most characters of this novel are flat characters - they don't really change much throughout the story because the author is using each character to illustrate an absurdity of war. While Yossarian is the protagonist of the story, I thought the most interesting character was the antagonist Milo Minderbender. He begins as a kitchen assistant, but slowly starts building a giant business. At first he only sells simple food products such as eggs to the military officers, but as his business grows, he starts using the military's airplanes and other equipment for his own profit. He is only interested in his own profits, and many men die because he helps both sides in the war. I thought Minderbender was representative of modern corporations that profit from war around the world these days.

**Now answer these questions:**

1. What does the first paragraph analyze? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What does the second paragraph analyze? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the main theme of the book? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What tone(s) does the author use? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How many characters are analyzed? \_\_\_\_\_

## 8. Paragraph 5: the conclusion

### 1. Some questions that your final paragraph can answer.

- Why did you choose this book?
- Did you like the book? Why or why not?
- What was good about the book?
- What was bad about the book?
- Has this novel been adapted into a movie or other type of media?
- Would you recommend this book to other readers? Who?
- How did this book make you feel, and what did you learn?

### 2. Look at the two example conclusions below. Which is better? Why do you think so?

Catch-22 is my favorite novel of all time. I was first introduced to it in university, and I have read it two more times since then.

Catch-22 is my favorite novel of all time. I was first introduced to it in university, and I have read it two more times since then. It was the first absurdist story I read, and I was impressed by how humor could be used in such bleak settings and circumstances. Heller wrote a sequel to this book called Closing Time, but it wasn't as popular as the original novel. When a reporter asked him why he had never written anything as good as Catch-22, Heller famously replied "Who has?".

## 9. Avoiding plagiarism

### What is plagiarism?

Plagiarism is copying someone else's writing and submitting it as your own work. There are two main kinds of plagiarism:

- copying another person's book report
- copying parts of your report directly from the book

The first type of plagiarism is very serious, and universities often expel students for this. The second type is a more common kind of plagiarism, and it sometimes happens by accident. Students must be very careful when they are writing their book reports. You cannot copy any sentences or paragraphs directly from the book you are reading. One of the best ways to avoid plagiarizing is to learn how to **paraphrase**.

### How to paraphrase

#### 1. Use a synonym (a word that has the same meaning)

Original sentence: "The hardest language to learn is Mandarin."

Paraphrase: The most difficult language to learn is Mandarin.

Paraphrase: The most difficult language to master is Mandarin.

Original sentence: "The hardest language to learn is Mandarin."

Paraphrase: Mandarin is one of the most difficult languages to master.

#### 2. Use an antonym (a word that has the opposite meaning)

Original sentence: "The man is tall."

Paraphrase: The man is not short.

Original sentence: "The school is far away."

Paraphrase: The school is not near.

### 3. Use a phrasal verb (= a verb plus a preposition)

Original sentence: "She *discarded* her old pen in the trash can."

Paraphrase: She *threw away* her old pen in the trash can.

### 4. Use general verbs (= change complex verbs into simple ones)

Original sentence: "The factory *manufactures* boxes."

Paraphrase: The factory *makes* boxes.

### 5. Use phrases (= explain complex words using a short phrase)

Original sentence: "Many people in Canada are *bilingual*."

Paraphrase: Many people in Canada *speak two languages*.

### 6. Change the order of the clauses

Original sentence: "If they have some help, most people can paraphrase effectively. However, practice is important because paraphrasing is difficult."

Paraphrase: Most people can paraphrase effectively, if they have some help. Paraphrasing is difficult, however, so practice is important.

### 7. Change adjective into relative clauses (when there is an adjective and noun)

Original sentence: "Writing essays can be a challenging task."

Paraphrase: Writing essays can be a task *which is* challenging.

### 8. Change parts of speech (verbs/nouns; adverbs/adjectives)

Original sentence: “The most effective way to build your English skills is to study regularly.”

Paraphrase: The most effective way of building your English skills is to do studying on a regular basis.

### 9. Change ‘voice’ of verbs (passive/active)

Original sentence: “To improve English, you should *learn* new vocabulary daily.”

Paraphrase: To improve English, new vocabulary should *be learned* daily



The easiest way to avoid plagiarism is to make sure that you do not have any book open when you take your notes or write your report!

## 10. Example book reports: Example #1

Joseph Heller was born in 1923 in New York, America. As a young man, he fought in World War II as a member of the Air Force. Heller's most famous book, "Catch-22" was published in 1961. It was not so popular at the time, but is now considered one of the best war novels ever written. This story is about an air force bomber named Yossarian who makes various plans to avoid combat. Unfortunately, his plans never work and he has to continue fighting.

The story starts with the protagonist, Yossarian, in a military hospital trying to avoid combat bombing missions. He pretends he is very sick so he can stay out of danger. He also tries to convince his superiors that he is crazy, so he should be sent home to America.

Unfortunately he is told that if he wants to return home, that means he is not crazy, so he has to continue his bombing missions. This crazy rule is called Catch-22. Everyone around Yossarian and every situation he finds himself in seems crazy to him. His roommate Mudd is dead, but no one seems to realize this; his superiors only care about their own promotions and winning military parades; and another soldier, Milo Minderbender, has started a business in the air force which sells equipment and food to the enemy.

Additionally, Yossarian's superiors continually raise the number of missions that airmen must fly before they can return to America. It becomes obvious that this mission increase will never end, and the story ends with Yossarian deserting the military and trying to escape back to America.

The main recurring theme of Catch-22 is the absurdity of war. The book tries to impress upon the reader that nothing in war makes sense; everything is crazy. Of course these absurdities are exaggerated, but I think that makes the novel more enjoyable to read. Heller uses a very cynic tone in this book; good men are always punished and stupid cowards are always rewarded. While he sometimes uses a light-hearted tone to describe strange events, those events often have serious consequences for the book's characters.

Most characters of this novel are flat characters - they don't really change much throughout the story because the author is using each character to illustrate an absurdity of war. While Yossarian is the protagonist of the story, I thought the most interesting character was the antagonist Milo Minderbender. He begins as a kitchen assistant, but slowly starts building a giant business. At first he only sells simple food products such as eggs to the military officers, but as his business grows, he starts using the military's airplanes and other equipment for his own profit. He is only interested in his own profits, and many men die because he helps both sides in the war. I thought Minderbender was representative of modern corporations that profit from war around the world these days.

Catch-22 is my favorite novel of all time. I was first introduced to it in university, and I have read it two more times since then. It was the first absurdist story I read, and I was impressed by how humor could be used in such bleak settings and circumstances. Heller wrote a sequel to this book called Closing Time, but it wasn't as popular as the original novel. When a reporter asked him why he had never written anything as good as Catch-22, Heller famously replied "Who has?".

(580 words)

**1. Answer the following questions about the book report:**

How many paragraphs are in the report? \_\_\_\_\_

Which paragraph gives a summary of the story? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the third paragraph about? \_\_\_\_\_

How many characters does the book report author analyze? \_\_\_\_\_

## Example #2

When I was a junior high school student my cousin had cancer. Luckily, she recovered, but I remember how impressed I was with her attitude while she fought the disease. The character of Sayaka in this book reminds me of my cousin. *I Want to Eat Your Pancreas* is Yoru Sumino's first novel and was originally published in 2014. The story is about a loner high school student who discovers his popular female classmate's secret that she is dying.

The story starts with an unpopular high school boy accidentally finding out that his popular classmate is dying of a pancreatic disease. She is keeping her illness a secret from her friends and the boy agrees to keep her secret. Most of the rest of the plot involves these two characters building a friendship that teeters on the edge of romance. They have a series of dates, including one overnight trip to Kyushu. Gradually, the girl coaxes the boy out of his shell and he learns to appreciate social connections. Even though the girl's life expectancy is less than one year, her life is cut even shorter when she is killed in a random murder on the street. The story ends with the boy reading the girl's journal and learning her true feelings for him.

The underlying themes of this story are obviously facing an early death and the fragility of life. The author wants to point out that no person knows when death will come for them and tomorrow is never guaranteed for anyone. These are of course heavy themes for a high school reader, but the cheerful character of Sayaka brings some levity to the story.

My biggest problem with the novel was that the characters were one dimensional and uninteresting. It is appropriate perhaps that the protagonist, who is also the narrator, remains nameless throughout the story, because he is also without character. He is a gloomy, solemn, brooding high school kid, but his biggest crime is that he is also boring as hell. JD Salinger gave us a similarly brooding teenage protagonist, but that character



offered true insight into teenage angst. This character's most interesting introspection is something being "delicious". Sumino wants to suggest that this kid is deep and has higher than average intelligence, but only communicates this by mentioning that he likes to read novels and does well in school without really trying. As boring and colorless as this character is, he also seemed "selfish". He seems particularly self-absorbed and even his classmate's impending death is dealt with in a way that suggests he is primarily concerned with how her death will affect him. Perhaps my inability to muster up any kind of empathy for this boy is indicative of my own slow march into old old age. But I would rather blame it on poor character development and what I suspect is a less than stellar translation.

The ending is a bit sweet and does pack some emotional punch, but I am guessing that this story, with the characters we are given, is better represented through the medium of manga or a live action movie.

(521 words)

**1. Answer the following questions about the book report:**

How many paragraphs are in the report? \_\_\_\_\_

What kind of hook does the writer use in the introduction? \_\_\_\_\_

Does the writer spend more time analyzing theme or characters? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you think the writer liked or disliked the novel? \_\_\_\_\_

## 11. Formatting rules

### 1. Formatting rules for when you submit your final draft:

- All spelling must be corrected before submitting your work. One spelling error = -1 point.
- Use capital letters correctly.
- Double space your writing.
- Add an extra space between paragraphs
- No handwriting allowed on paper.
- Add a word count at the end of your report