



THE SMITHTOWN LIBRARY
(631) 360-2480

TEEN BOOK REVIEWER PROGRAM

Earn community service by reviewing teen books! The Smithtown Library is looking for teens in grades 6-12 who would be willing to read a recently released teen novel and write a brief review.

To become a teen reviewer:

1. Stop by any Smithtown Library building and pick out a book from the teen section. **Book Reviews may only be submitted for teen books published within the past three years.**
2. Please note that the books in our teen sections cover a wide range of ages and vary in content and maturity level.
3. Submit your book choice for approval online at www.smithlib.org/teens. **Please allow up to 72 hours for approval. Book Reviews submitted without librarian approval will not be considered for community service credit.**
4. Once approved, complete your review in a Word document using the attached Teen Reviewer Guidelines. **Reviews that are not original or not about recently released teen books will be refused**, so double check the publication date and use your own words. Read your review carefully before submitting for spelling mistakes, grammar, and completion of review requirements.
5. Email your review as an attachment to teens@smithlib.org. Reviews may be subject to editing.

Reviews will be posted on The Smithtown Library's Teen Scene webpage and used to advertise books on the Library's social media platforms. **Reviewers will receive three (3) hours community service credit for each submitted review that meets all of the listed requirements, up to a total of six (6) hours per month.**

Certificates acknowledging community service credit will be emailed as a PDF.

Please allow 5 days for processing of reviews and certificates. After your review is submitted, a librarian will read your review for content, grammar, cohesiveness, word count, and presence of all the review elements. Within 5 days, you will receive an email with your certificate **OR** a list of revisions. Once the revisions are made and received, your review will be reevaluated within 5 days. If the revisions made do not satisfy the Teen Reviewer Guidelines, the librarian reserves the right to refuse the review and community service hours will not be awarded.

If you are submitting a review for a community service requirement such as Honor Society, Religion or College Applications, please submit well in advance of your deadline. Remember that you may be required to make revisions. Reviews will not be read the night before required hours are due.



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Teen Reviewer Guidelines:

In order to receive community service for your book review, the following guidelines must be met. In a Word document, please first type out the following format before providing information about your chosen book. Your review must contain a minimum of 450 words in order to be considered for community service credit.

Each review must contain the following elements:

- **Name**
- **Email address**
- **Grade**
- **Title of the book**
- **Author**
- **Genre**
- **Number of pages**
- **Rating (On A Scale Of 1-5)**
- **A list and short description of each of the major characters**
- **A plot summary**
 - The summary should be the “bones” of the story discussing what the main characters seek to accomplish. To find the “bones” of the story, expand on your character list by defining the challenges those characters face, significant others in the story, and the story’s setting. Then, add details to bring the story to life for someone who has not read the book. Do not give a blow by blow retelling of every fact in the story. Your plot summary should cover the beginning and middle of the story, and include a discussion of the story’s final conflict without giving away the ending or spoiling any major reveals. Your plot summary should be written in one single tense. Remember that your review will be read by teens who have not read the book, so your plot summary must be clear and cohesive.
- **A critical evaluation**
 - Comment on the structure of the book. Topics you can discuss in your critical evaluation include the writing style, the flow of the plot, the author’s expertise for the subject, flaws in the story, themes, and illustrations or lists as a plot device.
- **A discussion of the book’s appeal**
 - Will teen readers enjoy this book? Who would you recommend this book to?

Reviews should not contain judgmental language when describing a sensitive subject. It is not your task to convey the presence of certain material as a warning to others not to read the book.

Reviews should not need extensive editing for spelling, grammar, content, understanding, or style. Proofread your work!