

1 Read the book review. In which paragraph does Joanna:

- 1 give her opinion of the book?
- 2 describe what happens in the book?
- 3 give brief information about the book and its author?

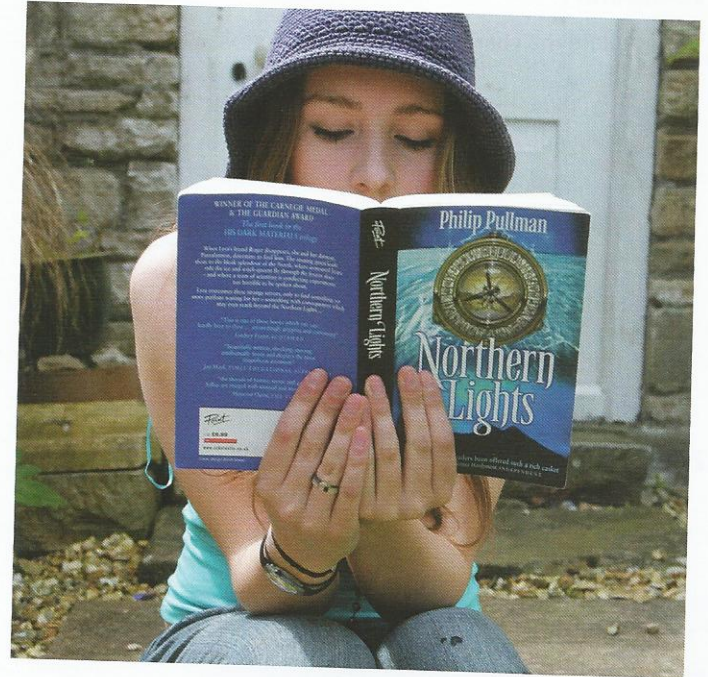
A book review

by Joanna

One of my favourite books is *Northern Lights* by Philip Pullman. It's a fantasy story set in Oxford and it's the first part of a trilogy.

It's the story of a girl called Lyra. She tries to save some children who have been kidnapped by a strange woman called Mrs Coulter. Lyra and some friends travel north to look for the missing children, who include her best friend, Roger. The ending is very exciting, with an interesting twist, but I won't give it away.

I liked the book for a number of reasons. The author has created an amazing fantasy world. The story is very gripping and I found it difficult to put down. The characters are convincing, and I identified strongly with Lyra. The book is sometimes compared with the Harry Potter stories. But I think it's more thought-provoking and less childish. I thoroughly recommend it.



2 Are the sentences true or false?

- 1 *Northern Lights* was written by Philip Pullman.
- 2 The story is set in London.
- 3 The main character is a girl.
- 4 Joanna didn't like the book.
- 5 Joanna thinks it's better than Harry Potter.

3 How many phrases from the box can you find in the review?

Talking about stories

I identified with (<i>a character</i>)	It's the story of ...
I liked the book because ...	It was made into a film.
In the end, ...	The main character is (<i>name</i>)
It was written by (<i>author</i>)	There's a twist at the end.
It's a (<i>type of story</i>)	I thoroughly recommend it
It's set in (<i>place</i>)	The ending is (<i>very exciting</i>).

4 Complete the text about *The Lord of the Rings*. Use phrases from the box in exercise 3.

The Lord of the Rings is a fantasy story. ¹ _____ J. R. R. Tolkien. ² _____ an imaginary land called 'Middle Earth', and ³ _____ a group of hobbits who have to destroy a magic ring. ⁴ _____ called Frodo. ⁵ _____ they succeed in destroying the ring. A few years ago ⁶ _____. Did you see it at the cinema? Anyway, it's a great book – ⁷ _____ !

5 Choose a book that you have read. Write notes under these headings, but include any other information that you think is important.

- **Paragraph 1: General information**
Title, author and type of book.
- **Paragraph 2: Story and characters**
Where is it set? Who are the main characters? What happens?
- **Paragraph 3: Your opinion**
Why did you like it? For example:
It's funny/moving/exciting/gripping/interesting.
It contains lots of interesting characters.
I really wanted to know what was going to happen.
There are lots of surprises.

6 Read the writing tip and do this writing task. Use your notes from exercise 5.

Writing tip

Remember to use the *present simple* to summarise the plot of a story or a film.

Write a review of a book you enjoyed. Write 130–150 words.

Check your work

Have you

- divided your review into three paragraphs?
- used some phrases from exercise 3?
- written 130–150 words?
- checked your spelling, punctuation and grammar?