Reading: a book review

1 **Read the review. Answer the questions.**

A Giant in Buckingham Palace

by Amanda Neil



I have read many stories set in London – the Paddington Bear books, *Mary Poppins*, *Peter Pan*. I've even read Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist*, as well as lots of his other tales of Victorian London with their strange and interesting characters going in and out of all the old shops of the city – the tailor's, the baker's, the jeweller's, the barber's. But the best book set in London that I have ever read is Roald Dahl's *The BFG*. I first read it when I was eight years old. I have enjoyed it several times since then; the last time was just the other day. Have you ever read it? No? What, never? Stop what you're doing and read it now!

The BFG was first published in 1982 and has been popular with readers ever since. It tells the story of a character called the Big Friendly Giant (the BFG of the title) and the friendship that he has with an orphan girl called Sophie. Together, Sophie and the BFG have to stop the other giants, all of whom are horrible, from eating children. The pair end up going all the way to Buckingham Palace in London to get the Queen to help them.

What I most enjoy about this book is the language. The BFG uses funny, invented words such as 'snozzcumber', 'gobblefunking' and 'whizzpopping'. Dahl's character is like a perfect uncle or grandad, with a wonderful imagination, a big heart and a sense of adventure. I recommend *The BFG* to anyone who likes being silly with words and enjoys a good story, and especially to those readers who want to be taken deep into the world of dreams.

1 Has the writer read any books by Charles Dickens? Yes, she has.

2 How many times has the writer read *The BFG*? _____

3 Who wrote *The BFG*? _____

4 When was *The BFG* first published? _____

5 Name two characters from *The BFG*. _____

6 What aspect of the book does the writer like the most? _____

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Writing

1 **Complete the text with the words from the box.**

critics recommendation story ~~reviews~~ opinion information

Introduction to Book Reviewing

People who write book (1) reviews are called reviewers or (2) _____.
A review has four main purposes: to give (3) _____ about a book (the title, the name of the author); to describe the (4) _____ (but not say exactly what happens); to give your (5) _____ (if you think it is good or not); and to give a (6) _____ – for example, *You should read this book* or *I don't recommend this book*.

Help with Writing

When you write a review of a book, don't give away all the details of its plot. You should give readers a sense of the story rather than tell them everything that happens in it.

2 **Write a review of a book you have read recently. Include the following information:**

- the title of the book
- the author's name
- what the book is about
- what you think of the book
- your recommendation.

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