

WRITER'S DIGEST

Writer's Digest Competitions shared feedback with you.

11/21/2022

Structure, Organization, Pacing: Please choose the statement that best applies to this book.

Reviewer 1

This book is exemplary in its structure, organization, and pacing. The structure of the chapters/parts aid in a compelling organization of the story or information. The pacing is even throughout and matches the tone/genre of the book.

Optional: Additional reader commentary related to Structure, Organization, Pacing:

Reviewer 1

Author takes a fascinating real-life story from history and crafts a story that unrolls the many historic plot points in a nicely moving storyline. Without that talent, a sprawling historic account could drag and be a chore to read. This structure and pacing works well.

Spelling, Punctuation, Grammar: Please choose the statement that best applies to this book.

Reviewer 1

This book has spelling, punctuation, and grammar corresponding with the region of the world from which the author hails (ex. British English or American English) or with where the book is set (including slang, vernacular, or dialect). These choices are intentional and implemented consistently throughout with few, if any, errors.

Optional: Additional reader commentary related to Spelling, Punctuation, Grammar:

Reviewer 1

Author has done a good job of creating a manuscript that has no typos that could distract the reader, especially in comic book format where the print is small and all over the page. You have to make it easy on the reader to follow every line and typos would distract.

Production Quality and Cover Design: Please choose the statement that best applies to this book.

Reviewer 1

This book is satisfactory in production quality and cover design. The physical materials, printing, and binding are mostly of professional quality. The typesetting and page layout (including illustrations, images, or figures) are largely designed but have some errors or inconsistencies. The cover could benefit from improvements to the overall design quality, and/or in relation to the genre/content of the book.

Optional: Additional reader commentary related to Production Quality and Cover Design:

Reviewer 1

Excellent illustrations throughout, with the cover being especially heart wrenching. We can only surmise that the mother-child scene is not a good one. The blazing sun colors give the story the feeling of fiery heat and hardship. I did notice that in the back of the book, the binding pages look wrinkled, perhaps caught in the printing machine.

Plot, Story, or Topic Appeal: Please choose the statement that best applies to this book.

Reviewer 1

This book is exemplary in its choice of topic or theme of the story. It is unique but still has strong appeal for most readers in its intended genre. If the book is fiction or narrative nonfiction, the book is well plotted. If the book is poetry or prescriptive nonfiction, there is a cohesive theme or delivery of information.

Optional: Additional reader commentary related to Plot, Story, or Topic Appeal:

Reviewer 1

The feat of trekking so many miles to reach Los Angeles and then trek back to rescue the families waiting in Death Valley is quite a marvel and considering the era of this survival story mixed with very human love stories, this book has many great narrative features. We're able to follow the many turns of the story, and characters stand out as magnificent voices in the narrative as well. We can feel the many emotions such as fear and desperation, and we look for the center of calm in any person or sign that they have. It's an experiential story, one taken from history because of its human resolve.

Character Appeal and Development: Please choose the statement that best applies to this book.

Reviewer 1

This book is exemplary in character appeal (or interest) and development. All main characters (including antagonists) are unique and fully fleshed out with compelling, layered motivations and traits. Secondary characters are unique and have a meaningful purpose.

Optional: Additional reader commentary related to Character Appeal and Development (for fiction and narrative nonfiction only:

Reviewer 1

All characters stand out as well-rounded, layered and in differentiated voice. We have a sizeable cast of characters here, and author has done well through plenty of research to keep them active and engaging throughout.

Voice and Writing Style: Please choose the statement that best applies to this book.

Reviewer 1

This book is exemplary in its voice and writing style. It has a unique voice, and the writing style is consistent throughout. The style and tone are also consistent with or will appeal to readers of the intended genre.

Optional: Additional reader commentary related to Voice and Writing Style:

Reviewer 1

It's all storytelling, with the comic book format showing image and dialogue primarily, but then we get that wonderful alternate handwriting of Sarah Bennett with her internal dialogue and turn at narration. Nicely organized, with voice that stays consistent throughout. Well done.

In a few explanatory sentences, please share with the entrant 1-3 things that you enjoyed or that readers will find compelling about this book and why.

Reviewer 1

The comic book format lets the book feature far more images than the page count would allow with one image per page. Dialogue then has to stand out to tell the story. Dialogue boxes contain differentiated voices for the characters. Well done. Excellent flashbacks on page 39 with so much emotion in the voices. Author has used a great narrative tool to give the story lots of depth. The historic account is amazing, and author has done a tremendous amount of work on it.

In a few explanatory sentences, please share with the entrant 1-3 of the most important aspects that need to be improved for this book to be more appealing/useful to readers and why.

Reviewer 1

Comic book format means that we're not getting descriptions of settings because we're looking at whatever detail can get into the small comic box. We're missing depth of location, as well as the descriptive magic of character interactions and more internal dialogue. The use of comic format is a good one, but we're just without a few layers of the reading experience.