



Readers' Favorite[®]

Book Reviews and Award Contest

Book Review Mini-Critique

Below you will find ratings (scale of 1-5) with general descriptions for the major parts of your book followed by your Readers' Favorite review. Although this is just a Mini-Critique, we hope it will give you an insight into how readers may view the different components of your book.

These are the opinions of your reviewer, and although they are not a literary professional, they are an avid reader of books just like yours.

Title: Odette's Alphabet

Author: Sandrine Marlier

Genre: Children - Grade K-3rd



Appearance: The appearance of a book can make a significant impact on the experience of a reader, whose enjoyment is often enhanced by an enticing cover, an intriguing table of contents, interesting chapter headings, and when possible, eye-catching illustrations.

5

Plot: The characters of a book should be well defined with strengths and flaws, and while they do not have to be likable, the reader does have to be able to form a connection with them. The tone should be consistent, the theme should be clear, and the plot should be original or told from a unique perspective. For informative books -- those without plot and characters--this rating refers primarily to your concept and how well you presented it.

5

Development: Development refers to how effectively you told your story or discussed your topic. The dialogue should be realistic, the descriptions should be vivid, and the material should be concise and coherent. Organization is also a key factor, especially for informative books -- those without plot and characters. The order in which you tell your story or explain your topic and how smoothly it flows can have a huge impact on the reader's understanding and enjoyment of the material.

5

Formatting: Formatting is the single most overlooked area by authors. The way in which you describe scenes, display dialogue, and shift point of view can make or break your story. In addition, excessive grammatical errors and typos can give your book an amateurish feel and even put off readers completely.

5

Marketability: Marketability refers to how effectively you wrote your book for your target audience. Authors may include content that is above or below the understanding of their target reader, or include concepts, opinions or language that can accidentally confuse or alienate some readers. Although by its nature this rating is very subjective, a very low rating here and poor reviews may indicate an issue with your book in this area.

5

Overall Opinion: The overall starred rating takes into account all these elements and describes the overall reading experience of your reviewer. This is the official Readers' Favorite review rating for your book.

5

Review: Reviewed by Emily-Jane Hills Orford for Readers' Favorite

"I imagine a world where we can live and work in peace and love all the time," Odette says. Odette is an ant. She's just made friends with a lost mouse, Marcus. They both woke up feeling stressed, but Odette has a meditative plan that will help her deal with this stress. She shares it with Marcus. Together they march through the alphabet, one letter at a time, thinking of great words and emotions associated with each letter. It involves exercises, too, like deep breathing and stretching. There's lots of laughter as the unlikely two, an ant and a mouse, so different, form a friendship through de-stressing. And that's why Odette likes the letter 'i' which begins the word imagine. What would you imagine?

Sandrine Marlier's picture book, *Odette's Alphabet*, is a clever, unique way to strengthen young readers and their knowledge of the alphabet, all while giving them some de-stressing activities to make their day even better. Following the main character, an ant named Odette, the plot weaves through the alphabet and creates an interesting blend of alphabet-inspired words to make this into a story about friendship, personal journeys, and finding creative means to make one feel better about themselves. We all have days like Odette's; days when we're not sure why, but something feels off. Following Odette's alphabetic mantra is one sure way to ease stress. Each letter develops the plot a little further and provides young readers with exercises to help them improve their sense of well-being. Absolutely brilliant and soothing, too. Love the illustrations.