

Dear students,

in the following, please find Paul's commented book review. Thanks for offering to have it corrected, Paul!

Language mistakes are indicated in red. Sometimes I gave the correction, sometimes only showed the type of mistake and, when very easy, only marked the mistake itself. Further comments on mainly content but also format etc. you find in the commentary section.

Please all read the feedback carefully, compare it to your own result and consider for yourself:

- Did I include all the parts of a review in my piece of work?
- Did I maybe make the same typical language mistakes?
- Are some of the comments in this example true for my review as well?

If you like to read further examples of your fellow students' book reviews, check out the respective upload folder. There, all reviews are available to everybody else.

Book Review on the absolutely true diary of a Part-time Indian

The book "The absolutely true Diary of a Part-Time Indian" written by Sherman Alexie _____ (was) published in 2007. Since its release the book was controversial (present perfect!; better → has been discussed controversially). It was on the list of frequently challenged books and was even banned from some school libraries due to the novels discussion about alcohol, sexuality, bullying and some other things. But it also claimed high achievements and became fast relatively popular (sentence structure).

The Novel is about the Indian boy Arnold Spirit, also called Junior. In the book, the author describes how hard Juniors life as an partially sighted Indian can be, but it also tells the story how Junior grabs, as only one out of his Reservation, the chance to visit the white Highschool in Reardan and how he finally finds what he always wanted: hope. "You have to dream big to get big" (p. 126, ll. 7) is a Quote from his father before the basketball game of his old Wellpinit Highschool against his new Reardan Highschool. In my opinion it sums up the main content of the book pretty well, because Junior always dreamed big and in the end he got what he dreamed of, even if the way was much harder, than he expected. The quote is not the only encouraging Quote from the book, which is only one more reason to read the Novel.

In my opinion it was a very interesting book to read. It was full of surprising and sometimes also touching elements, which made it a new reading experience. I also liked how the Author included some Cartoons into his book. As he said "can cartoons describe more than a thousand words" (sentence structure), and that really fits to

Kommentiert [J11]: - good to start off with overall information on the novel
- the type of novel (coming-of-age novel) + the fact that it's a semi-autobiographical novel should be mentioned, too

Kommentiert [J12]: - right to include other facts (perception of the novel, successful or not, movie made after it, ...)

Kommentiert [J13]: What follows is a short information on the novel's content. Here, your summary could have been a little less vague (although you don't need to and shouldn't sum up the whole plot here). If I hadn't read the novel myself, I wouldn't have known what it is really about. What is the conflict in the novel? Which challenges does the protagonist need to go through? Which other main characters does he meet along this way? ...

Kommentiert [J14]: see above, too vague

Kommentiert [J15]: Try not to mix up your plot information with your personal opinion yet. Save that for the next part.

Kommentiert [J16]: And what is this?

Kommentiert [J17]: Don't stop short of your argument here. If you don't want to explain or elaborate, leave out this last sentence.

Kommentiert [J18]: A review is about your perspective, your opinion. So have some other phrases than "in my opinion" at hand – you'll need them.

Kommentiert [J19]: Borrowing somebody else's words, you quoted them. Well done.

this book. I think it was very comfortable to read and it surprisingly didn't take to much time to read it through. The funny and selfless way the **Author** describes his _____ (e.g. **very own experiences**) and the situation on the Indian reservations in America makes it easy to understand what he is criticizing: the alcohol-usage in Indian reservations. But in my opinion the way _____ (**in**) that he describes the things are not always fitting. **The whole thing with Junior and his half-Girlfriend Penelope** (who also visits the Reardan Highschool) felt a bit weird and not really right. I also didn't like how fictional some of the stories that Junior tells in the book seem to be, even though it's called a diary. They are probably correct, but **the author makes it with his kind of writing hard for the reader (sentence structure)** to identify with the different characters. **But overall** it is an interesting book to read and definitely worth reading. I would recommend it to **all people, who are interested in the Indian situation right now in America but also to anyone, who likes an exciting and very unique reading experience.**

Kommentiert [J110]: In how far? Doesn't become clear here.

Kommentiert [J111]: After you have talked about your own reading experience and have given your opinion on the novel, you eventually make a recommendation. After all, would you recommend this book? And to whom? For this, you might want to start a new paragraph.

Kommentiert [J112]: The group of people you recommend the book to should be further identified, e.g. age group, people interested in which topics / genres, ...

All in all, this is a good review. It follows a very clear and logical structure and addresses the most important parts. It achieves its goal of presenting the novel and giving a justified reading recommendation. Especially with regard to its language, it is a convincing work.

For some passages, it could be more precise in what the reviewer wants to express and more detailed when it comes to the essentials of a book review. Here, a further look at the guiding questions I provided might help next time.