Book Review Organizer

Write a review your summer reading book. Your review must be at least 5-7 sentences long. Organize your thoughts on this Book Review Organizer and then compose your review in paragraph form.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Book title** | Catch 22 |
| **Author of the book** | Joseph Heller |
| **Genre:** What kind of book is this? Common genres include: adventure, animal stories, biography, crime, dystopia, fantasy, historical fiction, horror, humor, legend/myth, mystery, poetry, realistic fiction, romance, science fiction, sports, steampunk, supernatural, thriller, war, and western. | Catch 22 is Historical fiction. However the historical accuracy of this book has been heavily disputed since it’s release, because Mr. Heller paints the military as a corrupt inefficient bureaucracy that has no value for human life. |
| **Audience:** Who is this book written for? Who would appropriate readers be? Why? | Catch 22’s audience is wide, spanning any age group who is interested in world war II or the military. It is of interest to young people because of it’s comedic component, however this book would not be of interest for those too young to understand how ridiculous the bureaucratical hierarchy is. It would also be of interest to people who were alive during the war and in generations thereafter, as it gives somewhat of a different view than textbooks |
| **Appeal terms:** Describe the aspects of the book that affect its appeal to readers, including: | Illogical: The term catch 22 is in itself illogical for instance, Yossarian, is trying to escape death and in order to do so he must escape the war. His only way out is to plead insanity, under which circumstances he can go home, however in order to go home he must ask to be sent home and in doing so he would prove that he is sane enough to fly missions. This logic adds to the comedic appeal but also can be somewhat confusing to readers.  Chronology: One factor that readers may not like is the lack of chronology in this book. It is essentially a bunch of stories told in no order, and the only marker of time is how many missions he must fly.  Comedy: This is best demonstrated through Milo, who owns a syndicate which he is using to generate personal profit, however there is a cotton glut, and since he owns all the egyptian cotton he is out a lot of money, and in an attempt to save himself, he asks Yossarian to eat chocolate covered cotton. This is just one example of many comedic components of this book |
| **Pace:** How quickly does the story move (fast, relaxed, unhurried, engrossing, etc.)? | The story moves relatively slowly when it remains in a single period, and contains much rather pointless, but nonetheless intriguing dialogue. However, Yossarian, makes many chronological jumps. The book is also, because of the intelligence (or lack thereof) of the characters, a bit hard to follow. |
| **Characters:** How do the characters compare to real people (realistic, recognizable, relatable, familiar, etc.)? How would you describe their personalities (unique, eccentric, quirky, thoughtful, self-aware, etc.)? | Realistic, Relatable characters  **Yossarian-** The main character, and considering the circumstances (the war), and the complete lack of logic in any form he was pretty realistic. However his characteristics are in no way relatable, and his whole moral ideology is to stay alive. Yossarian is best described as unique in that, despite the fact that every characteristic points to him being crazy he has the most logical thinking in the whole war. Being atheist (and in the book even the chaplain was losing faith), he has no reason for morality, so he invented his own morality, to preserve his own life.  **Milo Minderbinder-** Milo, like Yossarian could be considered crazy, but his craziness was what made him great. He is brilliant running an international syndicate simply makes a profit. However all logic and morality in him ends when he signs a contract with the germans to bomb the US base. He is not realistic, in his crazy ideology, however if anything Milo was an opportunist.  **Colonel Cathcart-** Dedicated, however he constantly risks the lives of his men for his own personal gain. He is only concerned with making general, even though he lacks the intelligence to do so. He is ambitious.  **The chaplain-** Misses his home and his wife, he is realistic. He also demonstrates the desperacy in that he begins to lose faith in god. |
| **Story line:** What factors move the story forward (character-centered, psychological, centered around events/plot, unexpected plot twists, etc.)? | The biggest mover in this story is coming close to a goal, only to come short of achieving it, in this book every time something good happened to a character, it backfired, Everything they did that was good had an opposite reaction that set them back for. One of the biggest elements of this book is the number of missions the men are required to fly. It get’s raised every time one of the men come close. Another example is Nately’s whore. Nately chases a roman whore for years desperately in love with her, and then she finally falls in love with him. Nately, in an effort to stay oversees until he can bring her back decides to fly one more mission and dies.  Another mover is Yossarians determination to stay alive, Yossarian’s only wish is to stay alive this effects every action he takes and since the story is based around Yossarian, it affects the whole story.  Yet another factor in moving the side plot forward (Milo’s syndicate) is what Milo does, and how greedy he gets, this affects what happens in battle, because Milo has a tendency to take things from planes for food. It also affects mentality (when Milo bombs his own camp), and most importantly it affects the way the reader perceives the war. Through Milo they realize that the enemy is not as hostile as they realize, and later this is reinforced by them being ordered to bomb an unarmed village for a picture of an explosion. |
| **Tone:** What kind of atmosphere does the book create (scary, foreboding, ominous, heartwarming, touching, comic, funny, upbeat, sad, depressing, suspenseful, nerve-wracking, etc.)? | This book is funny and maddening at the same time. The men are risking their lives and dying to please the higher ups in dangerous missions that have no effect on the outcome of the war. It is funny for the same reason it is suspenseful. It is comical what an idiocracy was running the war effort, and how stupid motivations for missions are. |
| **Special features of the book:** Describe any special features of the book, such as illustrations, glossary, source list, author’s note, afterword, etc. | None, I read an ebook, there was nothing not even a glossary. |
| **Hook:** A brief summary of the characters and plot that would help another reader understand what the book is about. | Trapped in the insane asylum that is war, Yossarian is forced to follow illogical rules, and risk his life for things not worth dying for. His only quest, preserve his own life, without letting down his friends. |
| **Your reaction:** How do you feel about this book? Think about the emotions you experienced while reading the book (e.g., enthusiastic, curious, inspired, motivated, disappointed, emotional, aggravated, angry, shocked, bored, surprised, etc.). Why do you feel this way? | I was rather amused by this book, seeing Generals making decisions based off personal motivations, and high ranking officers who considered themselves men of religion but that had no idea that the men prayed to the same god that they did. I was also astounded to see how inefficiently the military was operating. Although this book was very controversial, it had to have some truth considering Joseph Hiller had served in the military. |

Put it all together  
Combine your notes into a review of at least 5-7 sentences, written with proper spelling, punctuation, and grammar.   
Hand in this form and your review to your English teacher when school starts.

I Read Catch-22 A historical fiction novel by Joseph Heller. Catch 22 would be an excellent book for anyone interested in the military. It would also be fantastic for anyone who is trying to understand what people are put through during war. Although this book does move a little slow, and is at times hard to understand the comical aspect makes up for all that. The main character is Yossarian, although he is called crazy, as he does at one point run around the camp naked, he is one of the most logical people in the book. His only concern is the preservation of his life. Another character of this book is Milo Minderbinder who is vital to the subplot. The subplot in this book is that of “the syndicate” an international black market operation, however Milo towards the end does cross a line. Another thing this book does, which was quite controversial when the book came out in 1961 is paint men’s lives as being expendable. In this book men are dying to make explosions that would look good for an aerial photograph, or to clear brush for yet another bombing that would lead to a nice looking aerial photograph. Ultimately Catch-22 is the story of a power hungry, unorganized bureaucracy who finds logical fallacies and makes rules to please themselves. It was this that made me love this book. In the beginning I was bored, and the book seemed pointless. Then at about page 110 the whole story clicked, the war, the bureaucracy, and how ridiculous it was. From then on it was comedy straight to the very end, which was quite suspenseful.