

Volunteer Info

How do I become a Book Reviewer volunteer?

All you need to do is fill out the application forms and submit one short writing sample (you can send in a 100-250 word review of any book of your choosing). You can either bring the forms and writing sample to the library in person (ask for Sarah) or email them to me at sgiardina@noblenet.org. If you get picked, I will email you the shared google drive folder and you can get started right away. And if you have any questions, feel free to reach out!

How does this translate to volunteer credit?

Every review you turn in will count for two hours of volunteer work.

How many reviews can I do?

You are allowed to do up to three reviews per month. And each book can have up to two people review them

How do I sign up for a book?

Once your application is approved, you will be sent a shared folder on Google Drive. In the folder there will be a table with the books for each month. You can put your name next to the book(s) you want to review.

What if I miss a month?

I understand that life can get busy, just let me know if you will have to miss a month of reviews. Try not to miss more than three months in a row, or more than five months total. If you miss too many, your spot may be given to another volunteer.

Can I listen to the audiobook instead?

Yes! You can choose whichever format you like best. Feel free to use the Libby app as well.

I don't like any of the books on the list, can I just pick my own?

I would prefer you try out the books on the list first. These reviews help us bring attention to new books, and help people expand their reading tastes. That being said, if you have recommendations you'd like added to the book list just let me know! I am happy to take suggestions.

Review Info

Where will the reviews be posted?

Every review will be posted on the library's Instagram account (@swampscottlibrary) and Goodreads page

Does this mean I have to write two separate reviews?

Nope! You can write one short review and we will post it to both sites. But, if you have more you want to say, you are more than welcome to write an additional, expanded review for Goodreads.

How long should the review be?

For Instagram the reviews should be roughly between 100-250 words. If you want to write an additional review for Goodreads, that can be between 100-850 words. But don't worry if you go a bit under or over.

What should the review look like?

Remember, this isn't a book report—so we aren't looking for a plot summary. You can include a few sentences to summarize the premise, but try to focus primarily on your opinions. You can list the strengths and weaknesses and say who you think would like the book. You can check out other reviews on Goodreads and/or Instagram for inspiration if you get stuck. And remember that these reviews need to be library friendly (no explicit or otherwise inappropriate language).

How long do I have to write my reviews?

You will have a month to submit your review (there will be a new book list posted at the beginning of each month). If you need more time, just ask! This isn't a homework assignment and you won't be graded.

Will my name be posted with the review?

You have the option to pick what information about you gets posted. You can have either your first name and grade level, just first name, or just grade level. Make sure you fill this out on the permission form.

What if I hate the book?

Then say it! You are not required to be positive in your reviews. However, try to think of some constructive criticisms of the book, keep it library friendly, and don't make people feel bad for liking (or not liking) a book. Remember, everyone likes something different.

Can I include spoilers?

Try your best not to spoil the book, we don't want to ruin it for someone else. You can include spoilers for your Goodreads review only (if you do write two different ones) as those can be hidden, just make sure to highlight that they are spoilers so we can mark them off.

What about Content Warnings?

Yes absolutely! Just make sure you put them at the top of the review and mark them clearly.