

Minecraft by Jake R.



You've already heard of Minecraft, right? It's being played by millions and become an international phenomenon. But still, this is as good a point as any to take a step back and discuss what Minecraft is, and why everybody seems to love it so much.

Minecraft is a game about building stuff with cubes. It's also a game about survival, discovery, community, loneliness, creativity, and despair. When you first start the game, you are dropped straight into the wilderness. But it won't be a wilderness quite like anyone else's - the game's environments are randomly generated and continue to expand until you've travelled enough to make the game generate a world three times the size of Earth.

Playing with friends has the bonus of allowing you to show off your creations to others. Logging in to your regular server after a few days away to see what your friends have created in your absence is a joy.

Minecraft isn't the first game of its type, nor will it be the last. But there *is* something special about it. Some are critical of the game's visuals, but they're the main reason people can get their head around the game and be creative with it. Its simplicity is what allows people to engage with it.

Minecraft is by far one of the most fascinating games ever made, in terms of the way it has been so openly developed. In an era where the development of most games is a closely-guarded secret, millions were invited to buy and play Minecraft years before it was even finished. This approach has led to a large amount of useful feedback for the developers, while also making them a fortune.

If you haven't already, you absolutely must play it. Just, for goodness' sake, make sure you've built a hut before the sun sets.

Three is the Magic Number ~ Toy Story 3 - By Mick L.



Woody, Buzz and the gang are back on the screen and that's a major celebration for moviegoers. Disney/Pixar has again come up with the best *Toy Story* ever—more laughs, more heart, more fun, more toys. What *more* could audiences want from a movie than this hilarious, heartwarming entertainment for all ages? It is a wonderful and unforgettable hour and a half movie experience for everyone.

Opening with a wild action sequence that takes place in the mind of young Andy, the story quickly moves forward in time to reveal Andy will be going to college and his mother is insisting he clear out his room of all the old toys which, with the exception of cowboy Woody, will be stuffed into a garbage bag meant for the attic. Mom mistakes the bag for trash, sending the characters on a near brush with toy death, before finding a safe place in a day care center. At first, the toys love their new home and new playmates, but as time goes on, they realize that it's run by an evil bear, Lotso. Woody and his friends hatch a plan to escape, which is the best part of the movie. Eventually they all make their way back to their beloved owner, Andy. Andy realizes it's time to pass on his toys, which have made him so happy, to another child. This movie will have you laughing, crying, and cheering.

Without a doubt, *Toy Story 3* is a must-see movie.

The Witches ~ by Roald Dahl

Reviewed by Lexi W.



The Witches is a wondrous fantasy book about magic and dreams coming true and a little boy and his witch crazy grandmother. Over summer vacation, a tragedy occurs. The grandmother gets pneumonia. She is so sick that they can't go to Norway like they wanted to. Instead, they go to a nice hotel on the West Coast of England. At the hotel, the little boy sees something that will no longer remain a secret. He sees tons of English witches who are dressed like humans. They wear wigs, gloves, masks, and costumes. The witches only wear costumes because they are terribly ugly underneath. The main witch in the story is named Victoria. Imagine if you were in a room full of identical witches. You would not be able to tell which witch is which.

Roald Dahl keeps us laughing. Believe it or not, I don't think I could have laughed harder! My favorite character is the grandmother because she is so patient but she speaks her mind. The best part of the book is when the grandmother was telling funny stories to the children about what happens if the witches get them. This is the best part because it is at the beginning of the book and it hooks the reader in. In my opinion, the witch's descriptions are so amazing that the story comes alive. The illustrations really helped me understand confusing words, because I could visualize what was going on. So trust me, you should definitely read The Witches.

I recommend this book to children 8-20 years old, because I read it when I was younger and again recently and I think it will scare little children. This is a book you will want to read if you like magic. You can read this book over and over again and you'll never get bored.

Name _____ Per. _____ Date _____



MOVIE REVIEW



Answer these questions about a movie you have recently seen that you really liked or disliked. Use this sheet to write notes for your movie review. You will then turn your notes into an article of at least 3 paragraphs with a title. Make sure to give your honest opinion. Turn in this sheet and your final copy. You must include one picture with your review and type your final copy on a blank page.

Movie Title _____

Characters/Actresses/Actors _____

Summary of the movie _____

The best part of this movie was _____

Your opinion of the movie and why _____

Recommended for which age group _____

Length of the movie _____

I give this movie a rating of * ** *** **** *****

Name _____ Per. _____ Date _____



BOOK REVIEW



Answer these questions about a book that you really liked or disliked. Use this sheet to write notes for your book review. You will then turn your notes into an article of at least 3 paragraphs with a title. Make sure to give your honest opinion. Turn in this sheet and your final copy. You must include one picture with your review and type your final copy on a blank page.

Book Title _____

Author/Illustrator _____

Summary of the book _____

The best part of this book was _____

Your opinion of the book and why _____

Recommended for which age group _____

Genre of the book _____

I give this book a rating of * ** *** **** *****

Name _____ Per. _____ Date _____



VIDEO GAME REVIEW



Answer these questions about a video game you have played that you really liked or disliked. Use this sheet to write notes for your video game review. You will then turn your notes into an article of at least 3 paragraphs with a title. Make sure to give your honest opinion. Turn in this sheet and your final copy. You must include one picture with your review and type your final copy on a blank page.

Video Game Title _____

Rating and Which System it's for _____

Summary of the video game _____

The best part of this video game was _____

Your opinion of the game and why _____

Recommended for which age group _____

How to play the game _____

I give this video game a rating of * ** *** **** *****