Everyday English

LEARNING OUTCOME learn how to give opinions in an online book review

Everyday life

1 Look at the photo and answer the questions.

> Where are the people and what are they doing? What kind of things could they be discussing?



Everyday vocabulary

2 Look at the words in the box and put them into three groups: verbs, positive adjectives and negative adjectives.

boring • brilliant • complicated • dull • enjoy enjoyable • fascinating • interesting • like • love recommend • too long

c both positive and negative comments.

3 Add any other words you know to the groups.

Reading

- 4 Look at the book reviews webpage below. Read the summaries and the comments. Tick (✓) the statements which are true. Some of the reviews contain ...
 - a only positive comments. **b** only negative comments.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

Summary: Set in modern-day England, we see the world through the eyes of Christopher Boone, a 15-year-old autistic boy, as he tries to solve the mystery of who killed his neighbour's dog.

Reviews:

★★★ MaryB I think it's an unusual story enjoyed it.

Gaz65 In my opinion, this is the best book of all time. I recommend it to everyone who can read!

5 Read the statements and write T (true) or F (false).

- a The central characters in both books are adults.
- **b** MaryB didn't like the story she read.
- c The books are set in different countries.
- d Both books are set in the past.
- e SorayaZ didn't like the story she read.
- **f** The boy in one story is a detective and the girl in the other story is a thief.

EVERYDAY ENGLISH TOOLKIT: GIVING OPINIONS IN A BOOK REVIEW

Look at the expressions from the dialogue. Which one of these words is used to show polite disagreement with an opinion?

I think it's an unusual story.

- In my opinion, this is the best book of all time.
- I found it a bit too long.
- I don't think the last review was fair.
- If you ask me, this is a fascinating story. Really?

Gatewc

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The Book Thief

Summary: Set in Germany in 1939, this is the story of Liesel Meminger, a poor nine-year-old girl who steals a book and learns to read to escape from the horrors of war.

Reviews:

★★ SorayaZ I found it a bit too long and boring. I think he's a good writer but I just didn't enjoy this story.

****** Izzy** I don't think the last review was fair. If you ask me, this is a fascinating story and Marcus Zusak is a brilliant writer. I recommend it to book lovers everywhere!

Tobias Really? I thought it was good, but I don't think *all* book lovers would like it.

Over to you!

6 You are going to write a summary and review of a fiction book you have read. Follow the steps below. Use the expressions in the Everyday English toolkit.

For the summary, think about:

- where and when the story is set.
- who the main character is.
- what the story is about.

For the review, think about:

- how to introduce an opinion.
- which adjectives you want to use.
- whether you want to recommend the book.