

Book Review

Attention grabber

Statement of author and title

Summary: Details about main character

Details about setting

Details about plot

More details about plot

Carlota, A Woman of Courage

Have you ever dived for sunken treasure? Ridden in a horse race? Faced a hostile army? The main character of Carlota, an exciting adventure novel by Scott O'Dell, does all these things and more. Along the way, she also discovers an important lesson about personal courage.

Carlota is about a young, headstrong woman named Carlota de Zubarán, who lives with her grandmother and her father on a large ranch in California. The novel is set in the last part of the 1848 war between the United States and Mexico. At that time, California was still a part of Mexico. Carlota's family, whose Spanish ancestors settled in Mexico, is on the side of Mexico.

When the novel begins, fifteen-year-old Carlota is listening to her grandmother, Doña Dolores, talk about the war. Soon, however, Doña Dolores begins to scold Carlota for riding her horse out on the ranch with her father. Doña Dolores expects Carlota to dress and behave more like a young lady.

Carlota's father, Don Saturnino, has very different expectations of her. He is the one who taught her to ride horses and to fight with lances. He even named her for his son, Carlos, who was killed by members of the Piute tribe when Carlota was very young. When Don Saturnino learns that a group of U.S. soldiers is on its way to California, he gathers other ranchers to help him attack the group. Of course, he also expects Carlota to fight along with him, just as he would have expected his son to fight.

Book Review *continued*

More details about plot

During the battle, Carlota wounds a young soldier. Later, after the defeated U.S. troops have retreated, she learns that her father also has been wounded. Even though Carlota knows how much her father hates the Americans, she insists on taking the soldier she wounded back to her father's ranch. There, she cares for both wounded men. When Don Saturnino learns that his daughter has brought an enemy into his house, he orders Carlota to send the man away. She has always obeyed her father's wishes, but now she refuses. As Carlota says, "I was ashamed, now, of what I had tried to do. The shame gave me courage." She is finally able to stand up to her father and show compassion as well as bravery.

Evaluation and reason

Carlota is very suspenseful; it holds the reader's interest. Carlota has many adventures and many close calls on her way to becoming her own person. To share in these adventures and to enjoy a good book, read Carlota.

Recommendation

Book Review

Definition

A **book review** is an essay that lets one person share his or her opinion about a book. It tells readers what a book is about and whether the reviewer liked or disliked it.

Many book reviews use the structure illustrated in the framework below. Print this framework and use it as a guide when you write your own book review.

Framework

Directions and Explanations

Introduction

- Attention grabber
- Statement of author and title

Get your readers' attention Introduce the topic of the book in an interesting way. You might use a quotation, a question, or a bit of action or dialogue to capture your readers' interest.

Clearly identify the author and the title of the book You also may want to tell readers what type of book you are reviewing.



Body

- Summary
- Details about setting
- Details about main character
- Details about plot

Identify the main character and the setting of the book Provide details about the main character and let readers know where and when the story takes place.

Summarize the book's plot Use chronological, or time, order to tell readers about important events in the story. Use transition words to make your review flow logically.



Conclusion

- Evaluation
- Reason
- Recommendation

Write your evaluation Tell readers why you like or dislike the book. Then, make a recommendation. Should they read the book?