LESSON 245  Writing an ending for a book review

Materials: Use your review from Lessons 243–244, chart paper, and a self-sticking note.

Preparation: On chart paper, write three possible endings for your review that do the following: 1. restates your opinion, 2. says to read the story to find out something, 3. tells what kind of person will like the story.

Instruction and modeling

Explain the key concept. Tell children that in this lesson they’ll learn how they can make their review even better by adding an ending. Remind them that writing a book review can be a way to share your opinion of a book you liked. Explain that a good ending can help others understand how good you think the book is and maybe make them want to read it themselves.

Discuss possible endings for your review. Read your review aloud. Point out that it doesn’t have much of an ending. Display the three sentences you wrote and explain that each is a different way you could end your review. Read an ending aloud and explain its purpose as follows: the first ending says again in different words what you thought of the story, the second ending tells people to read the story to find out about something interesting that happened in it, and the third ending tells people they will like the story if they like something that the story is about.

Add an ending to your review. Explain that any one of those endings would work well in your review. Ask children which one they like best. Write that ending at the end of your review. Next to it, put a self-sticking note with the word ending. Then read aloud the whole review with the new ending in place. Have children discuss whether they think the ending makes your review better and why.

Help children generate ideas before writing. Have partners discuss possible endings for their reviews. Encourage them to think of endings like each of the ones you described.

Practice and application

Have children finish writing their review and include an ending. Remind them to say each sentence aloud quietly to themselves before writing it, especially when writing their ending sentence, so they’re sure that is what they want to write.
Circulate and help children get started. Some children may need help writing an ending. You can help them express their opinion of the book using different words. Or you can suggest sentence frames such as, “You should read the story to find out…” or “You will like this book if you like….”

Conference with individual children as time permits. Your conferences can focus on children’s recent work on how-to writing or the book review they’ve been working on in this unit.

Sharing

Have a few children take their turn sharing the ending they’ve written or plan to write for their book review. Give star feedback for endings that restate an opinion or tell people why they should read the story. Invite listeners to give star feedback and ask questions.