

THIS BOOK RATES!

Supplies

-storybooks

Books are as different as people. We can't like them all, but we can formulate opinions about the stories we hear and/or read. It's important for children to be able to express their likes and dislikes, and know that their preferences make them unique. Listening and respecting others' opinions is a life skill that is practiced when doing the *This Book Rates* activity.

This Book Rates gives children a chance to express their feelings about a variety of books they've experienced. It gives them practice in formulating an opinion and supporting it with reasons and ideas. In the classroom setting, this activity will give children an opportunity to hear different perspectives of the same story. As children become more proficient at rating the books they've read, they'll begin to discover what writing styles they enjoy most and which authors most effectively hold their interest.

What to Do

Choose a storybook to read to your child or class. When finished, ask them if they liked or disliked the story. In addition to them just telling you, they can visually respond by using a small sign (green=like, red=dislike), show a facial expression (happy face=like or sad face=dislike), or give the thumbs up/thumbs down signal. If your child or student doesn't enjoy one of your favorite books, share your opinions too. We're all entitled to our opinions!

Once they've shared their opinion, encourage them to value it. They can give the book a grade (A, B, C, D, or F), a number rating (1-5 or 1-10), or adjust the volume of their clapping to match the enthusiasm the book generated. After they value their opinion, have them verbalize their reasoning. Older children can write a book review with opinions supporting their ratings. Younger children can draw a poster depicting the book as a "must read" or "story flop."

If your child or class liked the story, read more books by the same author and compare them. If they disliked the story, choose two other books (written by different authors) to read. Rate them also and give 1st, 2nd & 3rd place ribbons to recognize the order of preference.