



Book Review Mini-Critique



Below you will find ratings (scale of 1-5) with general descriptions for the major parts of your book followed by your Readers' Favorite review. Although this is just a Mini-Critique, we hope it will give you an insight into how readers may view the different components of your book.

These are the opinions of your reviewer, and although they are not a literary professional, they are an avid reader of books just like yours.

Title: Stjarna's Stars
Author: Patricia Squire
Genre: Children - Grade 4th-6th



Appearance: The appearance of a book can make a significant impact on the experience of a reader, whose enjoyment is often enhanced by an enticing cover, an intriguing table of contents, interesting chapter headings, and when possible, eye-catching illustrations.

5

Plot: The characters of a book should be well defined with strengths and flaws, and while they do not have to be likable, the reader does have to be able to form a connection with them. The tone should be consistent, the theme should be clear, and the plot should be original or told from a unique perspective. For informative books -- those without plot and characters--this rating refers primarily to your concept and how well you presented it.

5

Development: Development refers to how effectively you told your story or discussed your topic. The dialogue should be realistic, the descriptions should be vivid, and the material should be concise and coherent. Organization is also a key factor, especially for informative books -- those without plot and characters. The order in which you tell your story or explain your topic and how smoothly it flows can have a huge impact on the reader's understanding and enjoyment of the material.

5

Formatting: Formatting is the single most overlooked area by authors. The way in which you describe scenes, display dialogue, and shift point of view can make or break your story. In addition, excessive grammatical errors and typos can give your book an amateurish feel and even put off readers completely.

5

Marketability: Marketability refers to how effectively you wrote your book for your target audience. Authors may include content that is above or below the understanding of their target reader, or include concepts, opinions or language that can accidentally confuse or alienate some readers. Although by its nature this rating is very subjective, a very low rating here and poor reviews may indicate an issue with your book in this area.

5

Overall Opinion: The overall starred rating takes into account all these elements and describes the overall reading experience of your reviewer. This is the official Readers' Favorite review rating for your book.

5

Review:

Reviewed by Carol Thompson for Readers' Favorite

Stjarna's Stars by Patricia Squire weaves a heartfelt tale of young Stjarna, a spirited Icelandic girl whose life takes a dramatic turn after a volcanic eruption forces her family to emigrate to Canada. Through Stjarna's eyes, readers experience the resilience required for such a journey, marked by long voyages, friendships with tiny, mystical elves, and countless moments of wonder. Set against the backdrop of the historical challenges Icelandic immigrants face, Squire captures the beauty of courage and family bonds. Stjarna's character is endearing, blending innocence with determination. Her connection with her "wishing stars" and elfin friends adds a magical layer, enriching the narrative with warmth and imaginative touches. Each scene, from the quiet farewells in Iceland to the crowded steamboats and daunting landscapes of Canada, is painted with vivid details, transporting readers into Stjarna's world of hopes, fears, and dreams.

Patricia Squire writes a convincing narrative that will inspire young readers to do the right thing. Unsurprisingly, she is a retired elementary school teacher, so the book is perfect for classroom reading and further reflection. Squire provides a helpful pronunciation guide, another clue to her time in the classroom. The book is illustrated in color and black and white, giving it a literary classic look. Stjarna's Stars is so much more than historical fiction; it's an inspiring story of childhood resilience and the power of family and friendship. Squire's storytelling is delightful for all ages, especially those interested in immigrant tales, folklore, volcanos, and what life is like living close to danger.