About the Genre: A Review

What is it?
A review gives an opinion about something. A review can be an opinion about a product or an event. It can also be about a piece of art such as a painting, a sculpture, a movie, a book, or music. The reviewer tells whether he or she likes the topic of the review. To do this, reviews may include opinion phrases such as: in my opinion, I believe that, to me, personally, and I think that. The reviewer also gives reasons for his or her opinion. To explain his or her opinion, the reviewer uses descriptive language to describe the topic in detail. Reviews are found in newspapers, magazines, or online on magazine and newspaper websites or blogs.

What is the purpose?
The purpose of a review is to help readers decide whether they want to see the topic of the review. A review can also help readers know if they want to buy a certain product. It does so by describing it in detail and telling whether the reviewer liked it or not.

What is the structure?
Reviews are usually a few paragraphs long although some reviews are only a few sentences long.

Reviews typically have an introduction that gives background information about the topic. For example, a review of a piece of art will tell who made the art and where and when to see it. It may tell the reason the artist made this art. The introduction can also summarize the reviewer’s opinion of the art.

The body of the review describes the subject in detail. It uses descriptive language to help the reader see the topic in his or her mind.

Then the reviewer explains what he or she likes about the topic. The reviewer may also say what he or she doesn’t like. The reviewer gives reasons for his or her opinion. Sometimes a reviewer gives a recommendation. The reviewer tells readers what kind of person would like the topic of the review. For example, This movie is good for small children and families.

Comprehension Questions
1. What kinds of things might be the topic of a review? Choose two.
   a. a new movie
   b. a bus schedule
   c. a book
2. What are some opinion phrases a writer might use in a review?
3. What is one purpose of a review?
   a. to help readers understand complicated topics
   b. to persuade readers to be more active
   c. to help readers choose if they want to buy a certain product