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| **Lesson Title:** Book Review | | **Theme:** Writing | |
| **Practice Activity:** PHL-09-141 | | **Class:** JSS 3 | |
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| **Learning Outcomes**  By the end of the lesson, you will be able to:  1. Summarise details about a book read outside of class.  2. Be encouraged to read extra materials apart from textbooks.  3. Appreciate a piece of writing and give your opinion about it. | | | |

**Overview**

Extra materials help you greatly in your schoolwork. You should read books, plays, newspapers, short stories and poems outside of school. Reading outside of school will help you improve your English so that you can read and write better.

When you read outside of school, you can read anything that interests you. Some books tell about real-life situations; other books teach about moral or spiritual life. For example, the prose text *So Long a Letter* teaches about the right of womanhood, and the play *The Merchant of Venice* looks at love, friendship, greed and revenge.

Whenever you read, it is good to summarise the details of what you have read. A **summary** is the short version of a piece of writing. When writing a summary of the content of a book, always think about the main ideas. Summarising a piece of work or writing helps you understand it better and lets your vocabulary develop.

In writing a book review, you are expected to not only summarise, but also translate what you have read into real life. A **book review** has the following features:

* Title of the book
* Name of the author, poet or playwright
* Nationality of the author, poet or playwright
* Publisher
* Date of publication
* Contents/important details in the story
* Feelings or attitude towards a character or the story

**Practice**

**Activity 1**

Read the following story. After you are finished, write a book review. It should summarise the story and also share your opinion about it. Did you enjoy the story or not? Why or why not? Include reasons why you feel the way you do. The first paragraph should be the summary of the story. The second paragraph should be about your feelings toward the story.

The Noise

I had just snuggled down into bed. My sister was already snoring softly beside me. I tossed and turned a bit, trying to get more comfortable. My nightgown twisted around me uncomfortably. Sleep had not found me yet, so I sat staring at the ceiling. My eyes were just closing when I heard a soft ‘scratch, scratch, scratch’.

My eyes wide open now, I listened closely. I must have sat still, barely breathing for 15 minutes, but I heard nothing. I took a deep breath and started to relax. I must have just been imagining things. I closed my eyes. ‘Scratch, scratch, scraaaatch.’

Now, I knew I wasn’t imagining things. I sat straight up in bed. My sister was completely unaware, sleeping like a rock. I heard it again and tried to figure out where it was coming from. I slowly crept out of bed and moved in the direction of the sound. It seemed to be coming from the closet. I moved so slowly, it was as if I were in quicksand. ‘Scratch, scratch, hisssssss.’

I froze where I stood. What could this be? My heart was beating out of my chest, and I could feel sweat start to dampen my skin. I saw my phone on the edge of my drawers and grabbed it. I turned on the flashlight. The sound was getting louder now as I moved toward the closet. There was a rustling noise and the sound of claws tapping on the floor. Every part of my body was screaming ‘run!’, but my mind was just too curious. I had to know what it was.

I grabbed the handle of the closet door and turned as slowly as possible. My hand was shaking as the door creaked open. All of a sudden, the noise stopped. It was painfully silent.

I took a deep breath to steady my nerves and turned the flashlight toward the closet. The light glanced over clothes and shoes until I saw a shirt on the ground near the back of the closet move slightly. I crouched down and reached out my hand to pull the shirt away. As I did, 5 claws swiped at my hand, drawing blood. Shocked, I pulled my hand back toward me quickly, along with the shirt. There, curled on the ground was an angry black cat and five of the smallest kittens. The mother cat hissed at me as I laid the shirt back down near her. I backed up slowly and closed the closet door. I got back into bed and laughed to myself at how scared I had been. I couldn’t wait to tell my sister in the morning about the new family that had moved in!

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**Activity 1**

The story, The Noise, is about a girl who was trying to go to sleep next to her sister when she heard a scratching noise. At first, she thinks she is imagining things, but then she hears the noise again. She is nervous and gets up to find out what it is. She thinks it is coming from the closet so grabs her flashlight and opens the closet door. She sees a shirt move on the ground, but when she goes to grab it, she is scratched by claws. She realises the claws have come from a mother cat who is protecting her five baby kittens. She climbs back into bed, laughing, at how scared she had been.

I really liked the story because I like stories where you do not know what is going to happen and they make you feel a little scared. While reading I did not know if what was in the closet would turn out to be an alien or a monster or something else terrible. I thought it was funny when it turned out to only be a cat. It shows how our imaginations can so easily play tricks on us. Especially at night when it is dark.