The task:

A class website, called Now that’s a good read!, is being built to store book reviews. The books reviewed need to have an effective narrative and be worthy of recommendation to other students. You will need to choose a book with a strong plot, a well-defined main character and an identifiable theme.

Read or reread the book to examine the text and create a plot diagram and a character analysis and then make connections to the theme of the narrative. Use this information to construct a book review that will persuade other students to read your chosen book.
What to do

Select a book you believe is an interesting and effective narrative worthy of recommendation to other students.

Begin planning the book review.

• Read or reread the selected book

• Use the information in the story information chart to:
  – construct a plot diagram for the selected narrative
  – review the information on the completed plot diagram to analyse and describe plot development
  – decide on aspects of the plot that will support the argument that the selected text is an effective narrative and worthy of recommendation.

• Use the information in the story information chart to:
  – examine how the information that is revealed about the main character relates to the overall theme of the story
  – examine the character traits and evidence and how the character develops and changes during the narrative
  – decide on aspects of the character development that will support the argument that the selected text is an effective narrative and worthy of recommendation.

• Review the information about the plot and the character development and consider how it relates to the overall theme/s of the story.

• Decide on aspects of the theme/s that will support the argument that the selected text is an effective narrative and worthy of recommendation.

Write the first draft of the book review.

• Use the notes recorded to write draft sentences for each paragraph of the book review.

• Remember to:
  – consider the audience and purpose of the book review
  – review the structure and features of the book review
  – write an introduction that makes an impact and will get the reader’s interest, outlines the thesis or main argument and previews the arguments to follow
  – begin each paragraph with a topic sentence or main idea
  – support each main idea with appropriate supporting evidence or facts
  – consider the use of theme position to prioritise the most important information in the sentences
  – use evaluative vocabulary to strengthen or intensify the information
  – use modal words to improve the certainty and persuasiveness of the information

Review and edit the book review.

• Read and view the draft book review and write new sentences if necessary to add to or clarify the point of view.

• Identify the modal words in the draft and consider adding more or changing the degree of certainty to make the text more persuasive.

• Increase the intensity of the evaluative language by adding or changing words and phrases. Refer to a print or online thesaurus.

• Check that the most important words are in theme position in the sentences.
Proofread the book review.

- Check the spelling and grammar:
  - read each line and word carefully
  - over/mask other words/lines as you read
  - see technical support programs such as spell checks and/or an online dictionary or thesaurus to spell unfamiliar words.

- Check the punctuation.

Publish a final copy of the book review.

- Use a web-authoring or word-processing program to create the final copy of the book review.