Book report template for 2nd grade, with a picture frame for the best part

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A free 2nd grade book report template to print: problem, solution, lesson and opinion, a frame to draw the best part, and a worked example on a fable.

A 2nd grade book report adds the problem and how it is solved, the lesson, and an opinion with a reason, and it keeps one picture frame for the best part. Peabody's 2nd grade template prints all of that on one page, with lines to write on and a frame to draw in, plus a worked example on The Tortoise and the Hare and a shorter review version for a book read just for fun. It is free, like the rest of Peabody through the end of 2026, and it is paper: nothing is typed on the page.

The form

Eight boxes, in the order a child fills them:

1. Title and author. ___ by ___
2. Main character. Who is it about? What are they like?
3. Setting. Where and when does it happen?
4. Problem. What goes wrong?
5. Solution. How is it fixed?
6. Lesson. The lesson is…
7. My opinion. I would / would not tell a friend to read it because…
8. The best part. Draw it.

The prompts are short on purpose. A 2nd grader reads the prompt and answers it, so a box with one question gets one clear answer.

Why keep a picture?

By 2nd grade most of a report is words, and some templates drop the drawing. I kept one frame, at the end, for two reasons. A child who has written seven boxes has earned something they enjoy. And a drawing of the best part is a real answer: to draw it, the child has to choose one moment and see it clearly, which is the same choice a summary asks for in a year or two.

The worked example describes its drawing in words, so you can see what "the best part" looks like as an answer:

Tortoise stepping over the line while Hare runs up, too late.

A worked example

The example on the template page is on The Tortoise and the Hare, Aesop's fable, retold on Peabody. Read it together first, then look at the answers. Four of them, as they are on the page:

Main character:

Hare is very fast and likes to brag. Tortoise is slow, but he does not give up.

Problem:

Hare laughs at Tortoise for being slow, so they have a race.

Solution:

Hare naps under a tree. Tortoise keeps going, step by step, and crosses the line first.

My opinion:

I would tell a friend to read it, because it is short and Hare gets a big surprise at the end.

Notice the "because". An opinion with a reason is the 2nd grade skill, and the sentence starter on the form puts the "because" there before the child begins to write.

Problem and solution are where 2nd graders grow

That is the tip printed on the page. In 1st grade a report retells: first, next, last. In 2nd grade it asks why the story happens at all. Two questions help a stuck child: "What did the character want?" and "What got in the way?" The second answer is the problem. "How did they get past it?" gives the solution.

Fables are a good place to practise, because they are short and the problem comes quickly. The lesson box is easy to start with a fable, too, since a fable often says its lesson out loud.

The review version

For a book read just for fun, the review version has three boxes for a younger reader: colour in the stars for how much you liked it, who you would read it to, and a frame to draw the best part. It takes the pressure off and still asks for an opinion.

A book at the right level

On Peabody's ladder, 2nd grade is level 7. That page lists the free stories at level 7 in the library, such as Duck Says Sorry and Little Red Riding Hood, and the kids' lists that fit, such as the top 25 books for a 2nd grader. Levels are measured from each story's text, never from a child, so if the first page is a struggle go down a level, and if it is easy go up one.

Other grades

Before: 1st grade, which retells the story with First, Next and Last. After: 3rd grade, a short form in paragraphs with a summary and two reasons. All ten templates are on the book reports page, and the guide to book reports by grade sets them side by side.

Questions parents ask

Should I write the answers for my child?

Write what they say if their hand is tired, but let the words be theirs. Read the prompt aloud as a question, wait, and write down exactly what they answer. Spelling can wait for another day.

Does the book have to be a chapter book?

No. A picture book or a short story with a clear problem works well at this age: the form asks for a problem, a fix and a lesson, and a short book has all three in plain view.

What if the book has no lesson?

Many good books don't. Your child can write what the main character learned, or what they would do differently themselves. If there is really nothing, "The lesson is…" can become "This book made me think about…".

Free at peabody.kids/blog/book-report-template-2nd-grade