![C:\Documents and Settings\BuckneSh\Local Settings\Temp\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\D7HQ4455\MC900048792[1].wmf]()Dear Families,

Our class is about to begin the exciting literacy project I emailed you about when I received a grant from Champions for Learning: *The Spaghetti Book Club*. During this project, we will be writing and publishing book reviews. What makes this project especially exciting is that the reviews, in addition to being published on paper, will also be included on the Spaghetti Book Club website: www.spaghettibookclub.org.

Publishing is an important part of writing. It demonstrates the complete process that writers go through and allows them to share important ideas, experiences, and stories with an audience. Publishing for this worldwide audience can have a strong impact on students and their families. How exciting that relatives and friends are able to enjoy these reviews and share them with others - at home, in the office, the library or any place connected to the Internet.

Writing reviews is a meaningful way for children to share their opinions about books. During this project, we will explore what a book review is, why people read and write them, and what makes a great review. The students will be writing summaries, expressing their opinions and making recommendations. Writing reviews enhances a child's excitement about reading and discussing books - and it is a fun way for children to share their work with everyone they know.

All children will have the opportunity to write book reviews and publish them on paper. The web component is optional, but very much the most fun part of all! Because this is online though, only children with signed consent from their families will have their work published on the Spaghetti Book Club web site. Their full names will not appear on the site, only first names with a last initial as well as a drawing they will create of themselves as a link to their own book reviews. (The consent forms will come home in the near future in the Thursday folder, as soon as the website director has finished setting up our new account.)

For the “at home” part of this project, I have purchased a copy of each Florida Sunshine State Reader for a special family book review project. My hope with this project is that there will be family reading, discussion, and writing of a book review of the Sunshine State Reader that your child has brought home. These reviews will then be published on your child’s Spaghetti Book Club web page. Your family will have about six weeks to read and review the book. Please make sure to follow the guidelines, as the website has certain publishing rules that must be adhered to. If more time is needed, just let me know.

If you have any questions during the project, please feel free to let me know at any time. If you choose not to participate, please just send the book and materials back to school so I can send it home with another family.

This project will close with a final sharing session at the end of the school year when we will hold a “Pasta Party” at school to celebrate the reviews done in class and at home. I have tentatively scheduled the party for the afternoon of May 12, 2016. Save the date! ☺

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Mrs. Sheila Blaisdell

**Project Requirements:**

* Read a Sunshine State Reader with a family member or on your own
* While reading, talk about your favorite parts or questions you have about the book with a family member
* After finishing the book, write a book review using the following format:
	+ 1st Paragraph: Introduction
	+ 2nd Paragraph: Summary of the book
	+ 3rd Paragraph: Reaction/Opinions of the book
	+ 4th Paragraph: Recommendation

**1) Introduction:**

* Begin with a “grabber” to catch the attention of your reader
* Include title of book and the author and illustrator names

**2) Description/Summary of the book:**

* Give a brief description of what the book is about. Think about making the summary interesting for the reader. What would make him/her want to read the book?
* Tell enough so that the reader has sense of what the story is about, but try not to tell too much.
*You may not want to tell the whole story, especially if there's an interesting or surprise ending.*
* Are there any "big ideas" or lessons to be learned from this story? If so, what are they? Do you think the author was trying to communicate something to his/her readers?

**3) Your reaction and opinion:**Your opinion must include *at least three different reactions, thoughts or opinions*. Please consider at least three of these questions:

* What do you think about the book? Did you like it? Why or why not?
* What was your favorite part? Why?
* Were there characters that you liked or found interesting? Which ones? Why?
* Did any character remind you of yourself or someone you know? Who? How?
* Was there a character that changed in some way? How so?
* Are there illustrations? What do you think of them? Describe them. (How are they made? What kinds of colors did the illustrator use?)
* Is there something unique or special about the book?
* Is this like any other book you've read? How?
* Is it like other books by the same author? How?
* Is this book part of a series? How is it similar to/different from the other books?
* How did you feel as you read the book? What did it make you think or wonder about?
* Does the story remind you of anything in your life?

**4) Your recommendation:**

* Do you recommend the book? Why or why not?
* What kind of reader or audience would like this book?
* What about the story might interest readers? (Consider the plot, the characters, the setting, the genre and/or the author's writing style)

Remember: please include details to support what you write. Also, "I like it" and "We think you should read it" are not reasons. Be sure to include why you feel or think the way you do.

Reread your work often and ask yourself if you've given enough information, details and examples so that a reader could get a really good idea about what the book is about! See back side of this page for an example review (written by a student from last year’s class) with all of the required elements.

**The Fast and the Furriest**

Written by Andy Behrens

Reviewed by Noelle M. (age 8)



“Woof! Woof!” Come join Cromwell and Kevin in The Fast and the Furriest, by Andy Behrens.

To begin with, Kevin and his dog Cromwell are both couch potatoes. That all was changed when Cromwell saw a dog agility contest on Animal Planet so he got crazy for exercise. When Kevin’s dad saw him and Cromwell working out, he wanted to get Kevin into football camp. When Kevin got there, he accidentally slipped and crashed into another boy, Bradley Junior. He said he did it on purpose so he could get kicked out of camp, and that is exactly what happened.

In addition, my favorite part of this book was when Cromwell was running around the basement and crashed into the mini fridge. This caused it to fall over and break Kevin’s dad’s Mike Ditka collector plates. Kevin had to clean it all up because Cromwell could not do it. While reading Kevin’s complaints, I could not stop laughing! This was my favorite part because Kevin got blamed for it but it wasn't even his fault and even though he kept complaining, no one would believe him. It was really funny! I also liked this book because it had human and animal characters. This made the book more fun to read. Finally, the reason this book was one of my favorites is because it is a Florida Sunshine State Reader book!

In conclusion, this book is perfect for kids ages 8 and up. If you like motivational comedies, then weave your way through the library and find The Fast and the Furriest!

Checklist – Please complete when ready to return:

* \_\_\_\_\_ Return the book, bag provided, and contents of the bag. *If any damage is done to the book, please understand that the book will need to be replaced so others will be able to read and review the book.*
* \_\_\_\_\_ Create and send in an illustration related to the book (do not just copy the cover of the book) drawn with crayons and/or colored pencils on the 4x6 index card provided. Color entire card including the whole background…fight the white! ☺ (see example review/illustration) Write student name and book title on the back of the card in pencil. Please return the card, *even if you have scanned it into your review*.
* \_\_\_\_\_ If it is possible to type the book review at home, please *email the file* to Mrs. Blaisdell when completed. This makes it so much easier to post to the website. If this is not possible, please return your handwritten review with the book bag.
* \_\_\_\_\_ Complete the survey provided below and place this page back in the book bag.
* **Project Due Date: January 31, 2016**

Survey:

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Did you all enjoy reading this book? YES / NO

Book Title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. What would you like to see included and/or deleted from the project? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Would you like to complete another book review this year using another Sunshine State Reader? YES / NO

Book Preference: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­­­\_\_