**The Six Steps to Writing a Goodreads Book Entry**

**Step 1:** First the book a rating out of five stars. This will indicate who much you liked the book. You can give zero stars if you really hated it. Remember, your ratings go into the worldwide averages for the book and have a huge impact on the book.

**Step 2:** Start by identifying a theme in the book. Themes are things like friendship, trials, survival, rebellion, etc. Tell me what theme you are going to discuss.

**Step 3:** Then list at least two examples (more is better) of how the theme is shown and developed throughout the book. This means you need to come up with SPECIFIC things that happen that contribute to the theme.

**Step 4:** Based on the examples that you listed, what is the author saying about the theme by writing this book? This is the part where you really get to push yourself and think deeply. Every book is written with a very specific purpose. You task is to identify one of those purposes and prove it through your examples. To be brief, this step answers the question, “Why does this book matter at all?”

**Step 5:** Identify one element of symbolism that exists in the book. What could this symbol stand for? What does it mean? How does it contribute to the overall meaning and value of the book? For example, you could talk about the symbol of trees throughout the book *Stand Tall.*

**Step 6:** Lastly, what contribution does this book make to the world of eager readers? In essence, why should anyone read this book or even care?

**Things to Exclude in your Goodreads Entries**

**DO NOT** include a detailed summary of the book. You will talk about specific examples, but you can do that in a handful of sentences. I have probably already read the book you are writing about, or I know what it is about and what generally happens. Resist at all costs the urge to summarize the book! That is what you did in 3rd, and 4th grade. We can stop doing it now.

**DO NOT** simply write incessantly about how “awesome” the book was. You need to prove the awesome-ness of the book through the six steps of a goodreads entry. Just saying the book is awesome does very little to anyone’s opinion of the book. Where is the evidence?!

**DO NOT** include a bunch of fluff in your entry because you know they need to be rather long and detailed. When Mrs. Tolman reads your entries, she automatically takes out the fluff and only looks at the things you wrote to address the six steps. You are quite simply wasting your time writing the fluff because she disregards it anyways.