

**Example of a BOOK REPORT (At least 5 paragraphs long)**

Use this as an example when you are writing your own book report

Look for: **Introduction – “Hook”, title of book, author, genre of book**

**Setting – time and place**

**Main characters – give details about the characters**

**Plot summary- what is the main problem in the book?**

**Theme statement - what are the themes and give evidence.**

**Details of problems** encountered by the main character

(Focusing on character traits with examples from the text)

**Resolution (Outcome of the story, How is the problem solved?)**

**Personal Evaluation and Recommendation**

v

Book Report on The Kid in the Red Jacket

Imagine that you are leaving your old town and school to move across the country to a new town and school. As if this isn't bad enough, you are now going to have to be the "new kid" in the class. You have no friends and no name and the kids refer to you as "kid in the red jacket". This is what Howard Jeeter has to face in the realistic fiction novel The Kid in the Red Jacket by Barbara Park.

Howard, the main character, is a fifth grade boy. He with his mom, dad and baby brother Gaylord, move from Arizona to Rosemount, Massachusetts for his father's job. Howard's parents think that the move is exciting, like a "big new adventure". But, just the thought of the move makes Howard feel sick to his stomach. He does not want to move at all! He doesn't want to leave his best friends behind and he certainly doesn't want a new house or a new school! However, he does have to move and learn to make new friends and to fit into a new school. This story is about Howard's struggles to fit in and his humorous reflections on life.

First of all, Howard is a very funny boy. He is always making jokes. For example, in the car he pretends that his baby brother can talk. He also is constantly making wisecracks about his parents. He says that his mother should have named Gaylord "Mr. Baby" because she has named Gaylord's stuffed animals Mr. Giraffe and Mr. Walrus. Howard always has a humorous way of explaining how a fifth grader sees life. Another example of this is when his mother throws an orange into the back seat to keep him from griping he says that it is kind of “insulting – like feeding a gorilla a bunch of bananas so he won’t bother you,” then he makes noises like a gorilla.

Howard is really scared about the move. He talks a lot about missing his friends Thornsberry and Roger. He seems to take it out on his parents by complaining constantly about everything and I mean everything! He doesn't like his new house. He doesn't like the name of his new street and everything his parents do or say annoys him. He also doesn't like Molly Vera Thompson, the little six year old that lives in the house across the street from his new house. When she is over he always trying to get her to leave him alone. He even locks the door and hides from her. Molly Vera Thompson really likes Howard, even though he doesn't pay much attention to her. This weird little girl tries to make Howard feel welcome by spending time with him. She even gives him her doll to help him feel safe in his new bedroom. Howard only hopes that no one sees him hanging around with a six year old, which is hard because Molly follows him everywhere, even to school!

Eventually Howard starts to fit in at school by trying new things (you could even call that sort of brave). He starts to sit with a group of boys at lunch and then tries hanging around the soccer field. He finally begins to make new friends, Pete and Ollie. Unbelievably, he even begins to appreciate Molly Vera Thompson too and starts to admit that even she could be a friend!

This is a wonderful book to read. First, I thought it was very funny. I found myself laughing out loud especially at Howard's descriptions of Molly and his parents. Not only did Howard's comments made me laugh, but they also made me think about all of the "new kids" who have ever come into my classes. So anyone who has ever gone to school (well I guess that includes everybody) will be able to relate to this book. You won't want to put it down!

The Kid in the Red Jacket is a contemporary realistic fiction novel published by Houghton Mifflin. It is 113 pages long