

Teacher's Guide

Module: Writing / Reviews and Critiques

This Spanish [module](#) contains a teacher's guide, three student activities, a reading passage, and an essay rubric. It also contains pronunciation guides in audio and video form so students can learn the module's vocabulary. In the module, students learn about Spanish words related to writing reviews and critiques, as well as vocabulary and short compositions. Then, they complete activities to check their understanding.

The student activities are aligned to the PBS curriculum hierarchy for Spanish, and each activity was designed to be used independently. However, you can use them together, integrating all the resources provided for each activity. The following table shows how the activities are aligned:

Activity	Curriculum Hierarchy
Writing – Reviews and Critiques / Escritura – Revisiones y críticas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Languages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Spanish <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading and Writing in Spanish <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reviews and Critiques
Short Compositions for Target Culture / Composiciones cortas – Reseña de un libro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Languages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Spanish <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading and Writing in Spanish <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Short Compositions for Target Culture
Writing – Vocabulary / Escritura – Vocabulario	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Languages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Spanish <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading and Writing in Spanish <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Vocabulary

Writing – Reviews and Critiques / Escritura – Revisiones y críticas

1. Make sure your students have enough knowledge to practice the following **Spanish concepts** before they complete the activity.

Normally, nouns ending in “-o” in Spanish are masculine and nouns ending in “-a” are feminine, but there are some exceptions to this rule. Let’s talk about some of them. It is important to know that these nouns will always have the same gender, no matter what. It does not matter the gender of the person or thing to which they refer. These nouns are called epicene nouns, or sustantivos epicenos.

For example, a girl is “**la persona**” (the person), and a boy is “la persona” and never “el persono.” A male mouse is “**el ratón**” (the mouse), and a female mouse is “el ratón” (the mouse). If you want to show that the mouse is a female, you would say “**el ratón hembra**” (“the female mouse”).

Here are some Spanish words to help us practice epicene nouns:

- **la persona** (the person)
- **la víctima** (the victim)
- **el personaje** (the character)
- **la reseña** (the review)
- **la crítica** (the critique)
- **el tiburón** (the shark)
- **el ratón** (the mouse)
- **la hormiga** (the ant)
- **la cotorra** (the parrot)
- **el macho** (the male)
- **la hembra** (the female)

2. Guide your students to **listen to the vocabulary** for this activity. Select [audio](#) to hear the words pronounced or [video](#) for an audio-visual pronunciation guide. Use the image provided as needed.

- **la persona** (the person)
- **la víctima** (the victim)
- **el personaje** (the character)
- **la reseña** (the review)
- **la crítica** (the critique)
- **el tiburón** (the shark)
- **el ratón** (the mouse)
- **la hormiga** (the ant)
- **la cotorra** (the parrot)
- **el macho** (the male)
- **la hembra** (the female)





Alice in tea party | Armation74 | Digital Vision Vectors | Getty Images

3. Use the [video](#) “Si a la Cultura: Español al Día | Sustantivos Epícenos” as a part of the activity.

If there are heritage speakers in your class, use this video to introduce students to the concept of epicene nouns, or nouns that are gender neutral. You should play this video before having students work on the multiple-choice questions.

4. Guide your students to complete the following **activity**. Sample answers are provided below.

Read the following short passage to review information you learned today.

Normally, nouns ending in *-o* in Spanish are masculine and nouns ending in *-a* are feminine. But there are some exceptions to this rule. Let’s talk about some of them. It is important to know that these nouns will always have the same gender, no matter what. It does not matter the gender of the person or thing to which they refer. These nouns are called epicene nouns, or **sustantivos epícenos**.

For example, a girl is “**la persona**” (the person) and a boy is also “**la persona**” and never “**el persono**.” A male mouse is “**el ratón**” (“the mouse”) and a female mouse is also “**el ratón**” (“the mouse”). If you want to show that the mouse is a female, you would say “**el ratón hembra**” (“the female mouse”).

Select the correct answer for each of the following questions.

1. How do you say “female character” in Spanish?
Answer (letter): (a)
a. el personaje
b. la personaje

2. How do you say “female shark” in Spanish?
Answer (letter): (a)
a. el tiburón
b. la tiburona

3. How do you say “male victim” in Spanish?
Answer (letter): (b)
a. el víctima
b. la víctima

Short Compositions for Target Culture / Composiciones cortas – Reseña de un libro

1. Make sure your students have enough knowledge to practice the following **Spanish concepts** before they complete the activity.

Movie and book reviews are short compositions written for a target audience that would like to know about the plot and quality of a movie or book.

Today, we are going to read a book review of the famous story “Little Red Riding Hood” (“**Caperucita Roja**”). A book review gives a summary of a book and also provides a critique of it. This means that the writer of the book review will give his or her opinion on the book. Book reviews in Spanish will often make use of gender-neutral nouns like “**el personaje**” (“the character”) and “**la crítica**” (“the critique”).

Here are some Spanish words related to book reviews:

- **el personaje** (the character)
- **la crítica** (the critique)
- **la persona** (the person)
- **la víctima** (the victim)
- **el policía** (the police officer)

2. Guide your students to **listen to the vocabulary** for this activity. Select [audio](#) to hear the words pronounced or [video](#) for an audio-visual pronunciation guide. Use the image provided as needed.

- **el personaje** (the character)
- **la persona** (the person)
- **la crítica** (the critique)
- **la víctima** (the victim)
- **el policía** (the police officer)



Red riding hood face to face with big bad wolf | susan.k. | Moment | Getty Images

3. Guide your students to complete the following **activity**. Sample answers are provided below.

Read the following short passage to review information you learned today.

Today, we are going to read a book review of the famous story “Little Red Riding Hood” (“**Caperucita Roja**”). A book review gives a summary of a book and also provides a critique of it. This means that the writer of the book review will give his or her opinion on the book. Book reviews in Spanish will often make use of gender-neutral nouns like “**el personaje**” (“the character”) and “**la crítica**” (“the critique”).

Read the [passage](#) “‘Little Red Riding Hood’: My Favorite Fairy Tale.”

Answer the following questions.

1. How do you say “female character” in Spanish?

Answer (letter): (a)

a. el personaje

b. la personaje

2. How do you say “female shark” in Spanish?

Answer (letter): (a)

a. el tiburón

b. la tiburona

3. How do you say “male victim” in Spanish?

Answer (letter): (b)

a. el víctima

b. la víctima



Writing – Vocabulary / Escritura – Vocabulario

1. Make sure your students have enough knowledge to practice the following **Spanish concepts** before they complete the activity.

Vocabulary words help us to understand what is being talked about in a book or a short story. In Spanish, there are some vocabulary words (nouns) that are either masculine or feminine but can refer to people or things of either gender. In the review of the fairy tale “Little Red Riding Hood,” there are several of these vocabulary words. Sometimes it might be difficult to understand to whom or what the vocabulary words are referring to because the article “el” or “un” does not always refer to a male noun and “la” or “una” does not always refer to a female noun. You can discover the gender of unknown nouns by using context clues.

2. Guide your students to **listen to the vocabulary** for this activity. Select [audio](#) to hear the words pronounced or [video](#) for an audio-visual pronunciation guide. Use the image provided as needed.

- **el personaje** (the character)
- **la crítica** (the critique)
- **la persona** (the person)
- **la víctima** (the victim)
- **el policía** (the police officer)



Little Red Riding Hood walking through the forest | Imgorthand | E+ | Getty Images

3. Guide your students to complete the following **activity**. Sample answers are provided below.

Read the [passage](#) “‘Little Red Riding Hood’: My Favorite Fairy Tale.”

After reading the book review of “Little Red Riding Hood,” decide if you agree or disagree with the review. Write a brief paragraph giving your opinion on the fairy tale. Your review should include at least three of the vocabulary words from the “Little Red Riding Hood” review. Read the [rubric](#) as a guide before you write your answer.

SAMPLE ANSWER

“Little Red Riding Hood” is definitely not my favorite character (personaje). The reason she is not my favorite is because she was eaten by a mean wolf who pretended to be a person (persona), in this case, the grandmother (la abuela). Little Red Riding Hood disobeyed her mother and talked to a stranger in the woods. She told the stranger where she was going. Little Red Riding Hood is a very nice girl, but not very smart. However, I wish that it was the wolf that became the victim (la víctima) and not the little girl.

