



# Readers' Favorite® Book Reviews and Award Contest

## Book Review Mini-Critique



Below you will find ratings (scale of 1-5) with general descriptions for the major parts of your book followed by your Readers' Favorite review. Although this is just a Mini-Critique, we hope it will give you an insight into how readers may view the different components of your book.

These are the opinions of your reviewer, and although they are not a literary professional, they are an avid reader of books just like yours.

**Title:** Soul Speaking  
**Author:** Jamila Mikhail  
**Genre:** Poetry - General



**Appearance:** The appearance of a book can make a significant impact on the experience of a reader, whose enjoyment is often enhanced by an enticing cover, an intriguing table of contents, interesting chapter headings, and when possible, eye-catching illustrations.

**4**

**Plot:** The characters of a book should be well defined with strengths and flaws, and while they do not have to be likable, the reader does have to be able to form a connection with them. The tone should be consistent, the theme should be clear, and the plot should be original or told from a unique perspective. For informative books -- those without plot and characters--this rating refers primarily to your concept and how well you presented it.

**5**

**Development:** Development refers to how effectively you told your story or discussed your topic. The dialogue should be realistic, the descriptions should be vivid, and the material should be concise and coherent. Organization is also a key factor, especially for informative books -- those without plot and characters. The order in which you tell your story or explain your topic and how smoothly it flows can have a huge impact on the reader's understanding and enjoyment of the material.

**5**

**Formatting:** Formatting is the single most overlooked area by authors. The way in which you describe scenes, display dialogue, and shift point of view can make or break your story. In addition, excessive grammatical errors and typos can give your book an amateurish feel and even put off readers completely.

**5**

**Marketability:** Marketability refers to how effectively you wrote your book for your target audience. Authors may include content that is above or below the understanding of their target reader, or include concepts, opinions or language that can accidentally confuse or alienate some readers. Although by its nature this rating is very subjective, a very low rating here and poor reviews may indicate an issue with your book in this area.

**5**

**Overall Opinion:** The overall starred rating takes into account all these elements and describes the overall reading experience of your reviewer. This is the official Readers' Favorite review rating for your book.

**5**

**Review:**

Reviewed by Alex Ndirangu for Readers' Favorite

Soul Speaking is true to its title, featuring a collection of poems written directly from the soul and in a raw, occasionally harsh, but fascinating writing style. Jamila Mikhail covers situations we've all dealt with and the emotions they left in our hearts. In addition to the fact that Mikhail writes from her own experiences with love, friendship, heartbreak, betrayal, and misery, she also writes every word with stark honesty to convince readers they are not alone in their struggles. Read Mikhail's poetry as she opens her heart to the world.

For eight years, Jamila Mikhail tried to make something beautiful out of her love for someone, but it all amounted to nothing. All she got in return was pain, and now she writes to take the pain away and save herself from drowning. But more than anything, self-love, acceptance, unrelenting courage to face the harsh realities of life, and hope that there is a better tomorrow reverberate throughout this collection. There are also uplifting and educational moments where readers can help themselves heal from past pains. In the poem Write, Mikhail provides a priceless tool that readers can use to save themselves from being overwhelmed by silence and loneliness when things go awry. I tried her advice in the poem, and it worked. I recommend Soul Speaking to mature readers who seek to rid themselves of emotional pain and poetry fans seeking to delve into the innermost depths of the human soul.