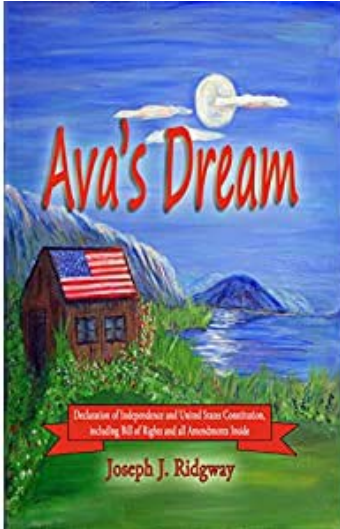




# Readers' Favorite<sup>®</sup>

## Book Reviews and Award Contest

### Book Review Mini-Critique



Below you will find ratings (scale of 1-5) with descriptions for the major parts of your book followed by your Readers' Favorite review. Although these are general ratings we hope they will give you an insight into how others may view the different components of your book.

These are the opinions of your reviewer, and although your reviewer is not an expert literary critic or professional editor, they are at the very least, an avid reader of books just like yours.

**Title:** Ava's Dream  
**Author:** Joseph J. Ridgway  
**Genre:** Children - Grade 4th-6th



**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.

**5**

**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.

**4**

**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 Soumya Sreehari for Readers' Favorite

Civics lessons in school seem to be dry and uninteresting. Ava's Dream by Joseph Ridgway makes Civics lessons interesting. Ava is an eleven-year-old girl excited about a new park in her city. The grand opening is the summer's big event and much awaited by all citizens. During the event, Ava is overjoyed with the beauty, vastness, and activities of the park, except for the fact that dogs are not allowed. That means her blind friend Sofia Jo cannot enter the park with Sadie, her seeing-eye dog. Determined to help Sofia Jo, Ava partners up with her lawyer grandfather to solve the problem for Sofia Jo. The story that follows is Ava's journey and a Civics lesson rolled into one. The appendix includes the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights.

Children's books are great sources to learn about critical topics. Ava's Dream by Joseph Ridgway is written for children but is useful for anyone who is curious to understand the structure of governance at a city level. Through Ava's story, Joseph outlines the basic structure of the United States government, and how a citizen can solve a public problem. The story is narrated in a simple and lucid manner. I found the story straightforward, instructional, and inspirational. It is critical to educate our children - future citizens - in a relatable manner. This ensures that they are interested in the subject and can further their knowledge as they grow older. The story form is especially effective to hold children's attention. I highly recommend Ava's Dream to young children and adults too.