Reviews: fact and opinion

People who read reviews expect to see some facts, but they mostly read them to find out someone else’s opinion of a book, a film or a TV programme.

Look at the two reviews below.

1. What is each text reviewing?
2. Which parts are fact and which are opinion? Highlight each in a different colour.
3. Does a mix of fact and opinion in these reviews help you to make up your mind about a book, film or programme? Or would you prefer more facts or more opinions? Discuss with others in your group.

Review by Anna

“Marley: A dog like no other” is written by John Grogan. John tells the story of his dog, Marley, and all the things he gets up to. Marley is a troublesome dog that is loved very much. In the book he is always doing funny things, such as drinking out of the bath and running around with the end of the toilet roll in his mouth! The book is very funny but also sad. I would rate this book 9/10.

(Adapted from the BBC website.)

Folk Hibernia

This watchable documentary looked at the Irish folk revival. We heard the best of Irish music from the last 30 years. Sixty years ago this music was almost never heard outside Ireland and it was largely unloved at home. Yet Irish music has given the world a sense of Ireland and Ireland a sense of itself, as the country has grown to be a modern European state.

(Adapted from the BBC website.)