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| **Is It a Classic?** | | |
| # | Criteria | Rating  0 - 10 |
| 1 | The book has a great theme. The work focuses on matters of great importance, identifying fundamental human problems and providing some sort of guidance for dealing with them. |  |
| 2 | The book is written in noble language. Noble language elevates my soul rather than depresses it as does profanity or vulgarity, which fills me with a sickness of evil thoughts about some of the finest things in human nature. |  |
| 3 | The book shifts my view of life. The book brings me face-to-face with greatness. It helps me become a better person. |  |
| 4 | The book speaks to me personally as an individual. The book tells me something about myself. |  |
| 5 | The book gives me perspective, to see how other people have dealt with life’s problems, and its opportunities, in other times and places. The book offers fresh view points on the human condition showing how others have dealt with heart break and shame, greed and ambition, anger and terror. |  |
| 6 | The book causes me to think, to think about the characters in the story, then about myself, then about people I know and finally about humanity in general; about what is good and valuable; about freedom, truth and responsibility. |  |
| 7 | The story is not bent – portraying evil as good, and good as evil. |  |
| 8 | The book is better written than other books. The book has believable characters, with genuine human emotions and challenging problems to solve. The world of the book is vivid, compelling and real. It is complex, nuanced, comprehensive, and profound, requiring careful and repeated study in order to yield its deepest secrets and greatest wisdom. It must have characters with complexity, layers revealing surprising facets or a relationship to the plot that is unexpected and not commonplace, while also addressing the philosophical questions used to investigate the vicissitudes (usually unwelcome changes of circumstances or fortune) of humanity. |  |
| 9 | The book must speak across the ages. It has enduring value. It stands the test of time. People keep reading it. |  |
| 10 | Other writers borrow ideas from this work. Influences subsequent works. |  |