

Reader Report

Opening Scene

Does the story begin with an interesting hook, creating a desire to read more?

Does the manuscript begin in the right place?

Characterization & Motivation

Are the characters compelling, sympathetic, or someone you can root for?

Do the characters feel real and three-dimensional, with distinct voices, flaws, and virtues?

Do their motivations seem believable, with well-drawn and appropriate emotion?

Are the secondary characters well-rounded and enhance the story rather than overwhelming the story or seeming like they should be cut?

Are the relationships between the characters believable and not contrived?

Plot & Conflict

Are the internal and external conflicts well defined for each main character?

Are the internal and external conflicts organic and believable, i.e. rising out of characterization and circumstance rather than feeling contrived or forced?

Are there enough stakes and/or tension throughout to make it a “page-turner”?

Does the premise avoid cliché and/or bring a fresh perspective to an old idea?

Do the characters act or react to events in a plausible, realistic, or believable way?

Pacing

Do scenes progress in a realistic, compelling manner and flow with effective transitions?

Does every scene add to and seem important to the story?

Does the story move along at an appropriate pace, without rushing or dragging?

Is there a hook at the end of each chapter or scene that makes you want to read more?

Is the story free from information dumps or backstory that slow the pace of the story?

Setting and Worldbuilding

Are the descriptions vivid and give a clear sense of time and place?

Do the details enhance rather than distract from the story?

Dialogue

Is the dialogue natural and appropriate for the story, not stilted or overly narrative?

Does the dialogue move the story forward and reveal the characters?

Are the characters' voices consistent and distinct from one another?

Is there an appropriate mix of dialogue and narrative?

Craft

Does the writing “show” the scene with the senses, using “telling” only as appropriate?

Does the writing quality allow the story to shine through and draw the reader in, or are flaws jarring and intrusive?

Is the tone appropriate and consistent for the story?

Overall Impressions

Is the voice unique, fresh, or interesting?

From a reader's point of view, did you enjoy reading the story?

Additional Notes