

Manuscript Questionnaire

Name _____ Age _____ Date _____

Email address _____

Reader Type: Beta

Manuscript Title:

Author:

Genre and Word Count:

Target Audience/Readers:

Thank you for agreeing to be a “beta” reader for this unpublished manuscript. Your feedback is priceless to the author. Because you match the author’s reader profile and love this genre, you are being asked to critique this project. The questions below are to guide you in your critique. Your answers help the author tell the best story possible.

Please read through the questions **twice** and then **put them aside** until you are finished with the manuscript. Keep the questions in mind as you read and mark pages.

Please do not share this manuscript with anyone without the author’s permission. A prepaid shipping label with a return envelope or box has been provided for easy return.

YOUR BETA READER TOOL KIT



Mechanical pencil – **NEVER read without it!** Write A LOT. Doodle, underline, and write down your thoughts. I included a red pencil for those of you who like some color.



Highlighters – should be nearby to bring attention to large areas of concern OR scenes you loved.



Sticky Colored Tabs – Mark anywhere you STOPPED READING and make a note why. Negative or positive. Did something confuse you? Did you get bored? (yellow tab). Is the writing awkward or difficult to read? (red tab). Did you laugh? Did you stop because you enjoyed the section so much you read it twice or because something delighted you? (green tab). Color coding is a suggestion from one of my beta readers. It is not necessary, but helpful.



Sticky notes – Use these for questions for the author and marking pages.



Printed Manuscript, return box or envelope, and prepaid return address label. Please return the manuscript along with your questionnaire when you have finished.

****The #1 RULE-** If you are not enjoying the story and looking forward to the next chapter, **STOP!** If you have to make yourself read at any point, don’t. Please place a colored tab where you stopped and explain why. Return the manuscript along with your notes in the box/package provided.

Jot down your thoughts as you read. Write in the margins, on the pages, and under the narrative. Tab pages, highlight, doodle, and make comments.

1. Were you hooked in the first five pages? What scene? The first ten pages? What scene? At what point in the story were you fully engaged. In other words, where you knew you couldn't put it down until you finished! *This is where you should have a colored tab or a sticky note.*
2. Describe how the setting of the story made you feel. Examples are depressing, dark, alien, rainy, happy, gloomy, uplifting, cold, didn't affect me. Do you think it is appropriate for the story?
3. Which character(s) were you most drawn to? Your favorite character? Why? Focus on the character traits that flavor your answer. Example: I liked the hero because he is kind, generous, shy like me, determined, brave, etc.
4. What character did you not like? Focus on the character traits and events that flavor your answer. Example: I hated the protagonist because he/she was cruel, loud, self-centered, conceited, etc.
5. Would you have made the same decisions as the main character? Why or why not. Would you want to live in this world?
6. Did anything confuse you? What does the writer need to clarify? Please highlight the confusing section. *This is where you should have a tab or a sticky note.*
7. Did any scene, dialog, or event seem awkward? Perhaps a character does or says something that does not fit with his/her personality. Imagine a kind, quiet character all of a sudden using inappropriate words, or a cruel character singing a lullaby! Maybe an entire scene feels like it is stuck in where it doesn't belong.
8. What surprised you?
9. Did anything scare you, make you cry, make you angry, or laugh? Please reference page numbers where the information should be noted. Example: The scene on page thirty-seven scared the #*&! out of me. I cried on page fifty-six. I was angry in chapter nine, smiling in chapter sixteen, laughed when I read chapter three, and fell in love in chapter fourteen.

10. Is any scene or circumstance beyond believability? This is where you might have stopped and said, "No way. That would never happen!" *Put a tab here and highlight the scene.*
11. Did you lose interest or feel like the story dragged at any point? If yes, where? *Please put a sticky tab here.*
12. What is your favorite chapter(S)? What is your favorite chapter(S) or scene? How did it make you feel? Why?
13. What emotion(s) were you left with at the end? Were you satisfied with the way the writer ended the story? A short explanation would be appreciated.
14. Who would you recommend this book to? Can you think of two or more friends or family members who would enjoy this story as much as you did? If you have no objection to me contacting them, please share their email addresses.
15. Please compare (manuscript title) to other books, stories, or movies you have enjoyed. List three or more books you have read that are similar to or reminds you of (manuscript title). You can list the titles or give a short review with contrast/comparison. For example (manuscript title) is like ABC meets XYZ. Or (manuscript title) reminds me of ABC but in the future.
16. Write a 3-4 sentence review (can be longer or shorter) of MANUSCRIPT TITLE. Please be honest, both positive and negative reviews are valuable. If you are not sure what to write you can go to dogobooks.com for examples of "Book reviews by kids for kids" or amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com, goodreads.com.
17. Would you be excited to read book two in the series?
18. Would you be willing to be a beta reader for book two in the series, and/or future manuscripts?

THANK YOU!

Cherie Postill