

Beta Reader Questionnaires

First of all, thank you very much for taking the time to beta read for me. I really appreciate it.

Included in this document are two questionnaires.

One asks specific questions that require specific answers (Questionnaire A).

The other (Questionnaire B) lists common “stumbling” points for readers, which for the most part require a rating of 1-5 (with 1 meaning: unsatisfactory, and 5 meaning: fantastic). If an issue doesn’t stand out for you as either good or bad (=sufficient), please mark with a 3.

You don’t have to answer both questionnaires. Simply pick the one you prefer. Remember that each uncertainty you help me resolve contributes to making this a great novel.

To show my gratitude, I would like to add your name to my acknowledgements.

Thank you!

Questionnaire A

1. Descriptions

- Do you get a sense of the town, the landscape, and people that inhabit it?
- Do you need a more thorough description of the main characters, i.e. clothes, background, their powers, physicality...?
- Anything else that needs more description for a true full-surround reading experience?
Do any features get mentioned too much?

2. Emotions

- Do you think the main character(s) should *FEEL* more? Can you give specifics?
- Do you think the main character(s) should *SHOW* their feelings more?
- Are there instances where the emotions don't ring true?

3. Consistency

- Have you noticed any glaring omissions or inconsistencies? Did one person leave the room, only to be back in it a second later? Did anyone smell citrusy in one paragraph,

but oaky in the next?

- Does the passage of time proceed in orderly fashion, and does the weather follow a logical progression?

4. Motivation

- Are you clear on what the characters are after, and do they attain their goals to your satisfaction?

5. Characters

- Do the characters work for you? Do any of them get annoying at some point, i.e. show immature behavior, don't see what's in front of their eyes, or are TSTL (too stupid to live)?
- Does the chemistry between the main characters work? How do the other characters fit in?

6. Pacing

- Are there places where the story drags, or skips too quickly ahead?

Questionnaire B

(based on Jami Gold's questionnaire)

HOW TO USE: Almost all of these questions can be answered with a 1-5 score, etc. You *don't* need to answer every one.

First Scene:

- Does the story begin with an interesting hook? Do you want to read more?
- Does the story begin in the right place?

Characterization:

- Are the characters compelling, sympathetic, and someone you can root for?
- Do the characters feel real, with distinct voices, flaws, and virtues?
- Are their goals clear and active (not passive)?
- Are the relationships between the characters believable and vivid?
- Do their motivations seem believable, with clear and appropriate emotions?
- Are the secondary characters well-rounded? Do they enhance the story?

Conflict:

- Are the internal and external conflicts for each main character well defined?
- Are the internal and external conflicts believable?
- Are the plot twists believable yet unexpected?
- Do the characters react in a realistic way?
- Is there enough tension throughout to make it a “page turner”?
- Does the premise feel fresh (as opposed to “been there, done that”)?

Pacing:

- Do scenes progress in a compelling manner and flow well (i.e. no jarring transitions)?
- Does every scene seem important?
- Does the story move at the right pace, without rushing or dragging?
- Is there a hook at the end of each chapter or scene that makes you want to read on?
- Do information dumps or backstory slow the pace?

Setting & Descriptions:

- Are descriptions vivid? Do they give a good sense of time and place?
- Do you feel the timeframe of the story is appropriate (i.e. not rushed or too drawn out)?
- Are the descriptions short enough so as not to slow the pace?

Dialogue:

- Is there an appropriate mix of dialogue and narrative?
- Is the dialogue natural and appropriate for the story (i.e. not too long or irrelevant)?
- Does dialogue reveal the characters?
- Are characters' voices consistent and distinct from one another?

Style:

- Does the writer “show” the scene by using the senses, giving you a 3D feel?
- Does the writing draw the reader in?
- Is the overall tone consistent for the story?
- Is the point of view consistent?

Overall Impression:

- Is the voice unique, fresh, or interesting?
- Does the story deliver on the promise of its blurb and first chapter?
- Did you enjoy reading this story?

Additional Questions:

- Are there any confusing sections that should be made clearer?
- Do any sections take you out of the story?
- Who are your favorite—and least favorite—characters and why?
- What is likable or unlikable about the lead character?
- What worked best for you?
- What worked least for you?