

## CRITIQUE CONSIDERATIONS for WRITERS

**CHARACTERIZATION:** Are the characters three dimensional, each with their own personality and quirks? Are there too many in the story? Are the characters, especially the main character, engaging even if not likeable? Can you empathize and identify with the characters?

**DIALOGUE:** Is the dialogue specific for each character so that if the dialogue tag (Dawn said, "...") isn't there, the reader knows which character is speaking? Does the dialogue do more than one thing? Ex. The dialogue shows character development of the character speaking, builds tension, and moves the story forward?

**POINT OF VIEW (POV):** In what POV is the story being told? Is that view the most meaningful for the story? Is it consistent? Are there clear transitions from one POV to another?

**SETTING:** Is the reader grounded as to where they are in time and place? Is the setting shown in a way that is organic and not information dump? Is the setting appropriate for the story? Is there too much/too little description? Setting can also be a character.

Tone: -the attitude of the story (Steven James)

Mood: -the atmosphere of the story (Steven James)

**PACING:** Does the story have the feel of time moving? Is that feeling appropriate for the story? Are transitions from one place/time to another done smoothly enough to not jar the reader?

Flow: -the tug that pulls readers along as they read

"Write the slow parts fast and the fast parts slow" (Lee Child)

**STRUCTURE:** Is the story laid out in the most advantageous way to paint its picture with specific meaning? Flashbacks shouldn't halt an action scene, or be added as an information dump. Is the prose balanced so that the story isn't too dialogue heavy, or narrative heavy?

**PLOT:** Is it logical? Done in a fresh way? Are there any plot holes? Are there subplots? Do the subplots weave in well with the main plot?

**VOICE:** Does each character's voice sound individual? If present, is the author's voice different from the narrator's? Is the narrator's voice different from each of the character's voices?

Note clichés, passive voice and adverbs. Note redundancies with words, sentences, dialogue and information. These cause readers to skim instead of being absorbed in the story.

Is each metaphor and simile working?

Mention your personal reactions and questions.

Did the piece resonate with you after reading it? Why?

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