

Beta-Reader's Questionnaire

This document is a questionnaire designed to assist beta-readers in pinpointing any issues your writing may have. It is a mish-mash of things seen on the internet, and we hold no rights to it whatsoever. Feel free to use and modify it to suit your needs.

1. Is it “boring”?

- Did the beginning draw you into the story and leave you wanting to know more? Why?
- Does any part of the story drag?
- Are there parts that you skipped to get to "the good part"? What parts did you skip?
- Do I over-inform anywhere? (Also known as “info-dumping.”)
- Did any part make you think, "Yeah, right!", "Seriously?", or "As if...“?
- Did the ending leave you satisfied, yet leave you still wondering about the characters? If not, what went wrong?
- Did the story leave any unanswered questions? If so, which ones?
- Which part of the story was the best?
- Which part of the story was the worst?

2. Did you “get it”?

- Did you understand every phrase/term I used? (If I used a phrase or word made up for the genre, did I make it clear in the surrounding text what that made up term meant?)
- Have I explained enough so that someone unfamiliar with this genre would understand everything that they read?
- (If applicable) Did I forget to mention that someone was demon-possessed, half angelic, or had mystical powers, or any other tidbit of information along those lines? (Psionics, super powers, Savant talent, etc.)

3. Do the scenes flow?

- Does each scene lead logically into the next?
- Is there enough downtime between intense scenes to allow build up to the next?

- Were the flashbacks (if applicable) smoothly integrated to fit into the current scene – or did they seem jammed in, like a chapter that was in the wrong place?
- Do I repeat whole scenes that don't need to be repeated? If so, which ones?
- If you could change any scene or scenes in the story, which ones and why?
- If there was one scene you could remove from the story, which one and why?
- Was there a nice clean scene-break or chapter break between each change in point of view?

4. Is anything visually confusing?

- Can you see every action clearly in your mind like a movie?
- Could you see what the characters looked like clearly?
- Could someone who was not familiar with the genre see what the characters looked like clearly?
- If you went there in real life, would you recognize the location?
- How does the setting work with the story?
- Did you have to reread any part of the action sequences to understand who did what?
- Did I forget to describe their clothes, their hair, their eyes, any other distinctive feature that pertains to a specific character?

5. Other senses:

- Did I miss-use any senses during the story? A scent that is unfamiliar? A touch done wrong? A sound miss-heard? A taste that is off?

6. During the dialogue scenes:

- Could you see what the characters were doing while talking?
- Could you see where the characters were while they were talking?
- Is the dialogue or voice believable and consistent?

7. Do the characters work?

- Do the characters act realistic?
- Does the dialogue sound realistic?

- Do their reactions seem logical & realistic?
- Could you feel the emotions between the characters?
- Did the characters seem in character? Did any act out of character? If so, which one and how?
- Did the characters with mystical powers (if applicable) use them in the story?
- Would different characters have worked better for this story?
- What character did you like best (sympathize with the most) and why?
- What character did you hate (sympathize with the least) and why?
- What character got on your nerves and why?
- Does any one character get in the way of the story?
- Was there a character that would have made the story better by being left out? In other words, if you could remove one character from the story, who would it be and why?
- Did it seem at any point like I was bashing any of the characters?