

## **Questions about My Manuscript (Alpha Readers)**

1. Does the opening of the story effectively capture your interest? Why or why not?
2. Are the characters well-developed and relatable? Do their motivations and actions make sense?
3. How effective is the dialogue? Does it sound natural and serve to develop characters and advance the plot?
4. Is the setting well-described and integral to the story? Does it enhance the narrative?
5. Is the plot engaging and coherent? Are there any noticeable plot holes or inconsistencies?
6. Are the stakes clear and compelling? Do they escalate appropriately throughout the story?
7. How is the pacing of the story? Are there sections that feel too slow or rushed?
8. Are there any themes or messages that stand out? Are they effectively woven into the narrative?
9. Do the character arcs feel satisfying and complete by the end of the story?
10. Are there any parts of the story that are confusing or unclear? How might they be improved?

## **Questions about My Manuscript (Beta Readers)**

1. Does the story maintain your interest from beginning to end? Are there any parts where your attention waned? Was it too rushed, or did it drag on at any point?
2. How would you describe the emotional impact of the story? Did it evoke the intended emotions?
3. Are there any specific scenes or moments that stood out to you as particularly engaging or memorable?
4. Are the characters memorable and distinct? Do they leave a lasting impression? Which character did you connect with the most, and why?
5. Is the voice and tone of the narrative consistent and appropriate for the genre?
6. How effectively does the story convey its themes or messages? Are they clear and impactful?
7. Are there any parts of the story that feel predictable or clichéd? How might they be improved?
8. Are there any elements of the story that might be confusing or unclear to a general audience? Were there any unclear character motivations?
9. How well does the story fit within its genre? Does it meet or exceed genre expectations?
10. How would you describe the ending of the story? Is it satisfying and does it provide closure?

## Questions for Critique Partners

### 1. Setting and Description

- Was the setting clear? Did you feel like you had a clear idea of what things looked like in the scenes?

### 2. Characters

- Can you give me a brief opinion of the main characters? Did you understand who was who and what their problems/goals were?
- Were there any characters that felt extraneous? Any characters you felt you were supposed to like, but didn't? Any characters you had a hard time keeping track of?

### 3. Plot and Structure

- Did the plot keep you engaged? Did the overall arc make sense?
- Did the beginning grab you?
- Did the middle keep your attention?
- Was the ending satisfying?
- Was the Climax both inevitable and yet unexpected?
- Was the story easy to follow?

### 4. Dialogue and Narrative

- Any problems with the dialogue? Ditto for the narrative?

### 5. Pacing and Engagement

- Were there any places where you were bored with it?
- Was there any point at which your interest faded?
- Did the action rise appropriately? Did it move too abruptly?

### 6. Expectations and Themes

- After reading the first scene, what expectations did you have for the story? Were those expectations fulfilled?
- Did you understand the themes, and did they become more complex and interesting as you read? Did the character arcs express the themes well?

### 7. Style and Tone

- Did you spot any purple prose?
- Does the overall tone welcome you? Or is it off-putting in any way?

### 8. Length and Repetition

- Was the story repetitive or overlong? Can you think of anything it would be good to cut? Is there any place I need to trim some fat and include less information?