



Beta Reader Worksheet

Themes

What is the major theme or main idea of this piece?

Is the theme communicated effectively?

YES

NO

What are some ways the author got the theme across?

How could the author communicate the theme more effectively with revisions?

Any other notable themes?

Organization and Mechanics

The writing is organized in a way that makes sense and is easy to follow.

1 2 3 4 5

Not at all

Very much

Comments/suggestions:

The author's spelling, grammar, and syntax were clear and understandable, or any nonstandard mechanics were used to good effect.

1 2 3 4 5

Not at all

Very much

Comments/suggestions:

Style and Voice

Observations on the author's style:

Plot and Pacing

How did the pacing feel?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Too slow

Too fast

What felt rushed, if anything?

Was there any point where the plot dragged?

Did the plot structure make sense?

YES

NO

If no, what was confusing?

What made the plot interesting and/or what could have made it more engaging?

Descriptions

Were the descriptions vivid -- like you were being pulled into the story?

YES

NO

What were some strong descriptive details?

What could have made the descriptions better?

Did the descriptions usually contribute meaningfully to plot, setting, or characterization?

YES

NO

Any superfluous descriptive passages that could be cut or revised?

Any more descriptive observations?

Characters and Relationships

Did the characters seem vivid and lifelike?

NO

Particularly good characterization:

Characterization weak spots:

Did the characterization generally make sense and stay consistent?

YES

NO

Elaboration:

Did some of the characters grow and change over the course of the story?

YES

NO

Elaboration:

Was the protagonist interesting to watch?

YES

NO

Elaboration:

Did character relationships seem natural and meaningful?

YES

NO

Elaboration:

Other character-related comments:

Dialogue

Did the dialogue generally seem natural?

YES

NO

Was there any unnecessary dialogue that could be cut or edited?

YES

NO

Specify:

Emotional Impact

Did the writing evoke the emotion the author seemed to want?

YES

NO

In what ways?

Setting/Worldbuilding

Was the setting well-developed?

YES

NO

What was done well? What could be improved?

Do the rules of the setting seem to be internally consistent and make sense?

YES

NO

If no, what seems off?

If it's a real-life setting, does it seem to be consistent with how things really work?

YES

NO

Other setting-related comments:

Fanfiction-specific questions

If applicable, are pre-existing characters acting like themselves?

YES

NO

Suggestions:

If it's supposed to, does this piece fit the tone of the original work?

YES

NO

Suggestions:

If they're supposed to, do the plot and setting follow the same rules as they do in the original work?

YES

NO

Suggestions:

Academic-specific questions

Does the paper fit the parameters assigned by the instructor?

YES

NO

Suggestions:

Are all sources cited properly?

YES

NO

Suggestions:

If applicable, is the paper formatted according to the appropriate style guide?

YES

NO

Suggestions: