

Questions for Beta Readers

Good questions target the reading experience, not a verdict. Give the questions to your beta readers; the checklist on the last page is for you.

Introduction

Genre and approximate length

State of the text

For example, "the content is finished, the language is not polished yet."

What I do not need right now

For example, comma corrections.

Deadline

Questions

1. Where did you first put the book down, and why?

2. When did you start worrying about the protagonist? Was there a moment when you did not care about them?

3. Which chapters did you read quickly, and which slowly?

4. What did you expect at the end? Did anything surprise or disappoint you?

5. Were there places where you did not understand why a character acted the way they did?

6. Passages that worked well

7. Would you read the sequel?

Checklist for a beta reading round

- ☐ Starting version saved before the round
- ☐ Several beta readers chosen, at least some from your genre
- ☐ Introduction, deadline and format agreed
- ☐ List of questions sent, including questions about what works
- ☐ All responses collected before changing anything
- ☐ Observations separated from suggestions
- ☐ Patterns marked, single opinions noted as hints
- ☐ Changes sorted by level
- ☐ Every beta reader thanked

Evaluating feedback in five steps

- ☐ Read everything first, change nothing.
- ☐ Collect it in one place: passage, observation, who made it.
- ☐ Separate observations from suggestions.
- ☐ Look for patterns.
- ☐ Sort by level and prioritize: structure before characters before scenes before language.