

## **H3388: Writing Workshop: Fantastical Fiction Workshopping Outline and General Guidelines**

1. Author questions
  - The author can mention any particular questions, concerns, or aspects of the work they would like the workshop to focus on.
2. Positive feedback
  - What was working well in this piece?
  - What lines/scenes/characters/etc. did you really like, or respond well to?
  - What parts of the piece did you find emotionally moving? Were they touching, funny, tragic? What did you feel as you were reading the piece?
3. Points of confusion
  - What parts of the work did you not understand?
  - In this part of the workshop, the workshop can ask direct questions of the author. The author should do their best to answer relatively briefly, just providing the information the workshop needs to discuss the piece.
4. Constructive feedback
  - What parts of the piece didn't work as well for you?
  - Where could you see improvements being made to the work, and in what ways would you suggest improving it?
  - Keep your comments constructive and collegial!
5. Additional author questions
  - Is there anything the author would like the workshop to address that haven't been talked about already?

Some elements of the work to discuss:

- Plot
  - What has the author chosen to write about?
  - How do the central ideas cohere?
- Style
  - How does the author deliver their ideas?
  - Is the writing descriptive? Elaborate? Simple?
  - How does this work with or against the subject matter?
- Character
  - Who are the main characters in this piece?
  - How do the characters connect with the voice and style?

For most of the workshop (except during the points when the author is being specifically questioned) it's usually customary for the author not to talk. Authors should be listening very carefully, though, and should take copious notes on what is being said about their piece.

Keep this structure in mind when you're reading the piece beforehand as well. When you come to something in the work that you really like, be sure to mark it down so you don't forget. If you have any thoughts that might be good for workshop, write them in the margins or mark them on the page. You can also help proofread for each other (see opposite proofreading marks handout).

## Proofreader's Marks

Mark	Meaning	Example	Correction
=	use a capital	nairobi, kenya	Nairobi, Kenya
/	use lower case	my <del>D</del> ad's watch	my dad's watch
1 <sup>o</sup> o	Insert period/full stop	Dr <sub>1</sub> Kamau	Dr. Kamau
e	delete, take out	Delete <del>this</del> this.	Delete this.
1	insert, add	This <del>/</del> <sup>is</sup> my story.	This is my story.
¶	make new paragraph, indent	¶ Later that day, we...	Later that day, we...
~	change word order, transpose	Move <del>word</del> this.	Move this word.
sp	spelling error	<sup>sp.</sup> incorect	incorrect
gr.	grammatical error	<sup>gr.</sup> I are good at grammar.	I am good at grammar.
o	find and correct error, consider changing	I went last night out to the park.	I went to the park last night.
Th. <sup>or</sup> W.C.	use a thesaurus to find a better word	The mountain was <sup>Th.</sup> big!	The mountain was humongous!

..... Stet (don't change)

He ~~already~~ left.