

# CRITIQUE CHECKLIST

for writing groups

## CRITIQUERS

Tell the writer what worked well in the story. It's just as important that the writer knows what to keep doing as what to improve.

Present your suggestions for improvements in a positive way. You want the writer to feel they should keep writing after hearing your feedback.

Be honest and specific. Hiding what you think didn't work won't help the writer improve.

## WRITERS

Giving a critique is just as hard as receiving one. No one wants to feel they've hurt your feelings, so accept criticism with grace.

The critiquer's opinion is just the critiquer's opinion. You decide what to keep from the critique and what to discard.

The critiquer took time from their writing to help improve yours. Critiques are gifts.

## WHAT TO LOOK FOR

1

### OPENING

Does the opening draw you in?  
What keeps you reading?  
Are you oriented in the setting?  
Does it start in the right place?

2

### CONFLICT

What makes you worry?  
Is there internal conflict?  
Is there external conflict?

3

### CHARACTER

Do you connect with them?  
What makes you care?  
What do you like/dislike?  
What do you wonder about them?  
Do their actions seem motivated and the motivations believable?

4

### DIALOGUE

Does the dialogue sound real?  
Does each character sound unique?

5

### VOICE

What impressions does the voice make on you?  
Is the voice: light, dark, humorous, serious, lyrical, suspenseful?

6

### STORY FLOW

Are you ever disoriented?  
Do you know what's real and what's in the character's head?  
Do scenes transition smoothly?  
Is the pacing right?  
Questions keeping you reading?