

Pinawor Critiquing Suggestions

BE KIND AND ENCOURAGING
We are here to learn from each other.

Here are some things to look for when critiquing:

- Are the challenges the main character faces clear?
- Do the behaviors of the characters ring true?
- Are the speech patterns and the dialogue distinct and different for each character?
- Is there enough action in the story?
- Can you feel the tension building?
- Can you "see" the scene?
- Do sentence lengths vary?
- Can the writing be tightened? Too many unnecessary words?
- Is the point of view consistent?
- Is the tense consistent?
- Does the author "show" what's happening instead of "telling"?

Commenting Do's and Don'ts

When someone reads something that you feel strongly about, it can be hard not to share your own experiences, but remember you can talk to the reader at the break or after the meeting.

Please Do	Please Don't
Give positive comments first.	Repeat critiques that have already been made.
Make your suggestions specific.	Comment on critiques others have made.
Comment only on the writing, not the content – other than to point out factual errors.	Be discouraging. We are here to help each other. Remember your comments are for writers to take or leave as they see fit.
Offer possible markets.	Say "You need to" or "You have to" – Instead offer something like, "You might consider..."
Keep your comments short.	Get personal or sarcastic – you are critiquing the writing, not the writer.
Keep the experience of each writer in mind and comment accordingly.	Say "I didn't like it," or "You can't do that."

Remember, we are here to learn from each other.