

SOME IDEAS FOR FEEDBACK

You may find these suggestions useful when thinking about a reading you have listened to.

I REALLY LIKED THIS PIECE OF WRITING BECAUSE:

i.e. it made me feel so sad... happy... shocked (as it was supposed to do)

A. CHARACTERIZATION

1. What does the main character really WANT? Is it clear that s/he's on the path to it?
2. Is s/he fighting an obstacle on the way to the main goal you have established early in the novel/story?
3. Could you discern the link between #1 and/or #2 (above) and the excerpt that has just been read? Should you have been able to? (maybe, maybe not!)
4. Is the main character like the writer? [It may be easier to write objectively about someone who is not like you.]
5. Does something about the character or situation ring false, somehow? [Be specific]
6. Were the concrete details about the character intriguing? Were there enough of them?

B. PLOT

7. Surprises create suspense--was the surprise in this section effective? Why?
8. Readers tend to skip ahead to the action; was there enough of it?
9. Did the story/poem flow smoothly, without gaps in the logic?
10. Were there enough clues pointing to the climax or denouement?

C. DIALOGUE

11. Was the dialogue composed of perfect ... complete ... sentences?
12. Did this dialogue keep the audience with their ear to the keyhole?
13. Did each of the speaker's have distinctive speech patterns that fit with his character as previously drawn?

D. DESCRIPTION

14. Was there a scene we could 'see' on each page that was read?
15. Did the descriptions of setting mix fact and (the writer's) imagination in a satisfying ratio?
16. Did the descriptive passages move the story along?
17. Was the description specific, precise and visual enough?

E. NARRATIVE PASSAGES

18. Did the narrative summary contribute to the story?
19. Did the writer have a strong sense of who his/her reader would be?
How do you know this?
20. Did the writer tell when s/he could show?

F. SYNTAX AND USAGE

21. Was there enough variety in the sentence lengths? (Pacing)
22. Do some of the sentences need 'tightening'? i.e. did the writer use several words when one strong noun or verb would do?
23. Did the vocabulary mirror the subject matter?
24. Was the vocabulary appropriate for the intended audience?
25. Did the sound of the words mirror the subject matter or situation?
26. Did the length of the piece fit the content? (should it be lengthened or shortened?)
27. Did the story 'come alive'? (few auxiliary verbs, many action verbs)
28. Were there enough/too many adjectives and adverbs?
29. Did the rhythms of this prose/poem mirror and enhance the subject matter?