

# *The Keen Eye Beta Reading Questions*

80 Questions For  
Feedback

*Keen*   
*Eye*

## *What's up with those 80 Beta Reading Questions?*

I developed the 80 beta reading questions to help frame the feedback I give when I read your novel.

The questions cover six areas:

- People
- What happens
- Setting
- Style
- Structure
- Mechanics



*Wait, is it 80 or 85 questions?*

Good question.

If you've written a Young Adult novel, there are five additional questions for a total of 85.

If you've written a grownup novel, there are 80 questions.



*Let's look at the questions*

# *People, part I*

## Main Character

- Was it easy to get oriented fairly quickly at the beginning as to whose story it is?
- What did the main character look like?
- What were the character's goals?
- What three words describe the main character?
- Was the main character relatable?
- Did the main character behave inconsistently?
- What characteristics were endearing?
- Is the author masquerading as the protagonist?

## Conflict

- What are the stakes?
- What are the stakes after the first chapter?
- Are the stakes high enough?
- Was there enough conflict?
- Is the antagonist sympathetic?
- Is the antagonist believable?



# People, part II

## Other Characters

- Were the characters believable?
- Were there the right number of characters?
- Which character was most enjoyable?
- Do the characters behave inconsistently?
- Was it easy to visualize each character?
- Were there emotions between the characters?
- Were any characters too much?
- Were any characters stereotypical?
- Do any characters get in the way of the story?
- Do I care about the characters?
- Do the names fit the characters?

## Dialogue

- Is there enough dialogue?
- Did it bog down in places?
- Was the dialogue interesting and did it sound natural?
- Are the dialogue tags good?
- Were the characters doing things while they were talking?



# *What Happens, part I*

## Plot/pacing

- Is the goal strong enough to sustain the XX,XXX-word story?
- Is the rhythm of the story good?
- What parts were funny or sad?
- What was the main plot?
- Was the main plot strong?
- What were the subplots?
- Were the subplots strong?
- Was there a point when the story lagged?
- Were there parts where you skimmed?
- Was there anything problematic?
- Was there anything missing?
- Does the pace suit the genre?



# *What Happens, part II*

## Interesting?

- What made the plot unique?
- Were there any parts where the plot was predictable?

## Questions

- After reading the first chapter, what questions were unanswered?
- Was anything confusing?

## Story Logic

- Were there points that were unbelievable or illogical?

## Tension & Release

- What was the most suspenseful moment?
- What were the most emotional scenes?
- What were the most detached scenes?





# Setting

## Where does it take place?

- Was the setting clear from the beginning?
- Was the setting interesting?

## Does the world make sense?

- Did you have to re-read any part to understand why the world is this way?

## Time Period

- Were there any inconsistencies in the time period?



# Style

## Prose

- Does the writer have a distinctive, engaging style?
- What does the prose do best?
- Is the viewpoint in the right tense?

## Imagery and Description

- Was there the right amount of description?
- Did the descriptions seem vivid and real to you?

## Balanced Show vs. Tell

- Is the story told using the active voice?
- Are there any info dumps?

## Unique

- What scene was the most memorable?
- Did anything strike you as predictable?



# Structure

## Beginnings

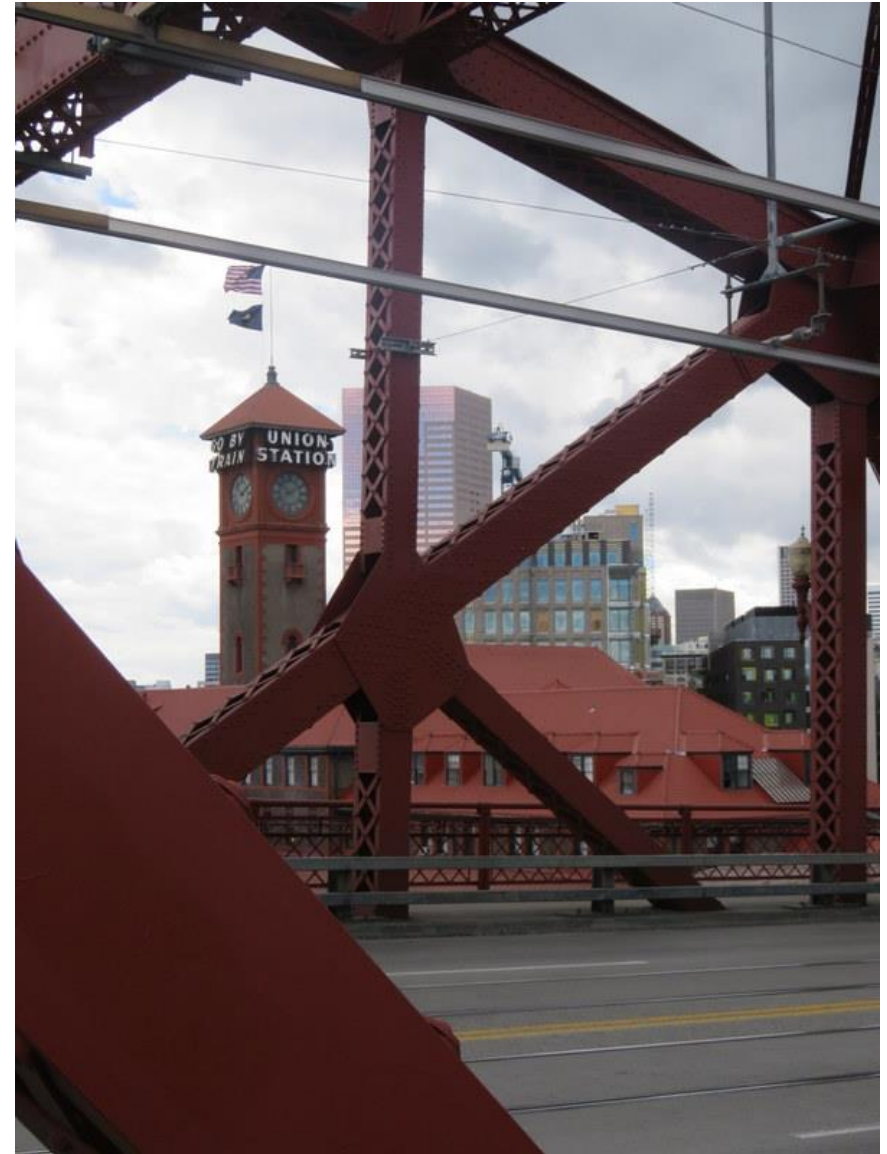
- Did the story hold your interest from the very beginning?
- At what point did you think “now the story has started”?
- When did you want to put the book down?
- Is there too much backstory?

## Middles

- What are the balls that are in the air during the middle of the story?
- Is conflict rising?
- Do readers need a break?

## Endings

- What was your immediate thought upon finishing?
- Was the ending satisfying?
- Was the ending believable?
- Does it fulfill the book’s promise?
- Was the ending worth reading the book for?



# *Mechanics*

## Grammar, Spelling, Syntax

- Were there any repeating grammar errors?
- Were there any repeating spelling errors?
- Any other quirks?

## Comps

- What other stories are similar to this one?

## Adjectives

- What are three adjectives to describe this story?
- What three words would you use to describe the voice?



# *Young Adult-Specific Things*

## Age

- What is the age of the main character?

## Unique Voice

- What about this story makes it unique and would appeal to a YA audience?

## Point of View

- Is the story told from a perspective that works for a YA audience?

## Doesn't Preach

- Does the story unfold in a way that avoids dictating how readers should feel about specific things?



*Are you ready to book  
your Keen Eye Beta Read?*

Great!

Email [pcc.keen.eye@gmail.com](mailto:pcc.keen.eye@gmail.com)

[Schedule](#) a 30-minute consultation

