

Editing Checklist: Narrative Text

Language

- Are words used repeatedly in the same sentence or paragraph?
- Does the writing avoid sentence fragments or run-on sentences unless they are a necessary part of a character's dialogue?
- Are a variety of phrases and clauses used to convey specific meanings and make sentences more interesting?

Grammar

- Does the writing use correct verb tenses and verb forms?
- Do pronouns clearly refer back to and agree with an antecedent?
- Do subjects and verbs agree in number and form?

Punctuation and Capitalization

- Are the dialogue and dialogue tags (*he said, they said*) punctuated correctly?
- Are the names of characters and settings capitalized correctly?
- Are introductory phrases and clauses followed by a comma?
- Are semicolons used to link closely related independent clauses?

Spelling

- Are all words spelled correctly, including hyphenated words?
- Are homophones (words that sound like other words, but have different meanings and spellings) used and spelled correctly?
- Have you given your narrative a final read-through in addition to using a spell check?