The Book Editing Checklist

How to Tell if Your Book Is Ready to Publish

Story

- Is there a clear genre?

- Is there a protagonist with a goal?

- Is there a source of conflict, an antagonist with a goal?

- Is there a change in the story from beginning to end?

- Is the point of view consistent?

- Inciting Incident: Is there a disruption at the beginning to kick off the story?

- Progressive Complications: Are there events and circumstances (positive and/or negative) that make the story increasingly complicated?

- Crisis: Does the protagonist make a major choice?

- Climax: Is there a "big event," a climactic moment where the protagonist faces the story's core source of conflict?

- Resolution: Is there a moment where the reader sees the new world order now that the conflict is resolved?

Style

- Does the dialogue sound natural?

- Is there an appropriate balance of showing versus telling?

- Voice: Does the writing use words that capture the right style and tone?

- Does the story flow smoothly from beginning to end?

Technical Elements

- Is the story free of errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc.?