



STORY EDITING

Using 15 Key Elements of Fiction
to Tell Better Stories

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Welcome

To turn a first draft into a story your readers will love, writers need to be their own story editors.

You've finished your first draft. Congratulations! Now what?

Whether you're self-publishing or going the traditional route, your story needs to be as good as you can possibly make it before sharing it with others.

Now is the time to evaluate your writing with a story edit to ensure your story works and is compelling to your readers.

But just re-reading your novel and looking for areas of improvement without having a process can waste a lot of time. Questions such as: Where to start? What to change? and How to make it better? all come to mind.

Don't despair. There is light at the end of the editing tunnel.

Just like you learned how to write a novel, you can learn how to perform a story edit. All you need is a clear process, some editing knowledge, and the right tool.

It's your job as a writer to put in the hard work of self-editing and revising your story until it works. Our goal is to help make that job a lot easier!



The Story Edit

Story editing, similar to structural editing, is all about evaluating the major components of your story. We call these components the **Key Elements of Fiction** and have grouped them by:

 **Characters**

 **Plot**

 **Settings**

A great story is made up of a collection of great scenes that flow smoothly from one to another. We're going to show you how to use the Key Elements of Fiction to create and link great scenes.










The Fictionary process helps you evaluate your story on a scene-by-scene basis. You'll be able to improve the structure and flow of your novel and tell a better story.

In the following chapters, we'll introduce and explain the Key Elements of Fiction starting with three elements for **Characters**. After that, we'll tackle eight **Plot** and four **Settings** elements.

This eBook covers a subset of the Key Elements of Fiction included in the Fictionary online tool, so you can get started on editing and rewriting your novel.

Benefits Of The Fictionary Process

The Fictionary Key Elements of Fiction described in this eBook will help you identify and fix issues with a manuscript in the following areas:

-  Pacing
-  Character names, appearances, and goals
-  Point of view
-  Story arc
-  Plot holes (Scenes with no purpose)
-  Flow from scene to scene
-  Absence of tension or conflict
-  Empty stage syndrome
-  Confusing timelines or missing objects

When looking at the areas that may need improvement, **another benefit of using Fictionary are the built-in Rewrite Tips**. These tips provide advice specific to the area of the manuscript you are working on. No more searching endlessly for the advice you need.

Like what you're reading?

Sign Up to our Fictionary newsletter to receive the rest of the eBook.

Thanks,

Kristina