REVISION-UARY

January Novel Revision Workshop
Part 1

Story Spinners
Writing Club
@ Your Library

MINDSET

When to revise

- ❑ After <u>finishing</u> first draft.
- ❑ Avoid fixating on rewriting this one part over and over and never finishing the draft.
- ❑ When drafting, keep moving forward. You can come back and fix it later.
- ❑ Keep a list of things you know you need to fix.

Let it sit

- ❑ Waiting creates distance.
- ❑ Distance helps you make logical decisions.
- ❑ Time for betas to read.

Be open and flexible

- ❑ Killing your darlings
  - ❑ Characters and details
  - ❑ Favorite scenes, lines, & words
  - ❑ Sometimes for the betterment of the story, they have to go.

3 TYPES

Developmental Edits (Content Editing)

❑Looks at the <u>big picture</u>, characters, arcs, pacing, plot holes, sensitivity.

Line Editing

❑Looks at the <u>minutia</u> of a story: Sentence and paragraph flow, clarity, consistency, word choice.

Copy Editing

❑Looks for <u>errors</u> in typing, grammar, and word usage.

Done in this order

❑Why edit your word choice if you're going to rewrite or throw out the scene?

❑Why fix all your typos if you're going to reword the lines?

BIG PICTURE

Where you'll catch those major plot holes and ensure the storyline makes sense.

Read through and take notes.

❑ Look for:
  ❑ Plot/Arcs
  ❑ Pacing
      ❑ Foreshadowing
      ❑ Rushing/dragging/character soup
  ❑ Characters
  ❑ Conflict, Stakes, & Tension
  ❑ Continuity

Identify core issues that need changed.

Choose to tackle these issues:

❑ Linear
  ❑ Start at beginning and comb through making changes, revising in chronological order.

❑ Non-Linear
  ❑ Focus on one problem area at a time.

Outline

❑ Lay out each scene and what it accomplishes.

❑ Can help pinpoint what is important, what is not, what can be merged, what is lacking.

❑ Can also help in later creating a synopsis.

QUESTIONS 1

Big Picture questions to ask yourself or your betas:

❑Plot

- ❑Do you like the way the story works out?
- ❑Do some scenes need more explanation?
- ❑Do you not like some scenes?
- ❑Do the subplots fit into the main plot and add to it?
- ❑Was there something else that you hoped would happen that didn't?

❑Pacing

- ❑Does the pacing make sense within each chapter? And across chapters?
- ❑Is there the right amount of build-up and foreshadowing to big events?
- ❑Is there a sufficient amount of description?
- ❑Is there any part where you get bored?
- ❑Did anything make you feel uncomfortable?
- ❑Did anything feel skipped?

❑Major Inconsistencies

- ❑Were any plot points abandoned?
- ❑Was something established one way, then contradicted without sufficient explanation?
- ❑Does something just not make sense?

QUESTIONS 2

❑Characters
- ❑Believability
  - ❑Could there actually be someone like this?
  - ❑If not, are they at least entertaining in a way that adds to the story?
- ❑Likability
  - ❑Are they annoying?
  - ❑Do you feel anything for them?
- ❑Consistency
  - ❑Do the decisions made make sense for this character?
  - ❑Do they grow in a believable way?
  - ❑Is there emotional whiplash?
- ❑Dimensionality
  - ❑What do you think of the character's introduction?
  - ❑Do you feel you get to know them?
  - ❑Does the way you initially feel about them change?

❑Additions/Deletions
- ❑Are you curious about something that isn't in the story but should be?
- ❑Do some scenes need to be more substantial?
- ❑Are some scenes unimportant or stalling the plot?

❑Style
- ❑Is there a clear voice and style?
- ❑What do you think of the work as a whole?
- ❑Are all your important questions answered?
- ❑Is everything tied together?
- ❑Is the story marketable?
- ❑To whom would you recommend this story?

MINUTIA

Once you've fixed the big picture problems, it's time to get to the nitty-gritty of how language works for your story with Line Editing.

❑ Look for:
  ❑ Clunky sentences and paragraphs
  ❑ Poor wording
  ❑ Overused words and redundant phrases
  ❑ Sections that need condensed or expanded
  ❑ Trimmable words
    ❑ Filler words
    ❑ Unnecessary Adjectives and Adverbs
    ❑ Lackluster verbs

❑ Also watch out for:
  ❑ Inconsistencies
  ❑ Breaks in style or voice

ERRORS

I hate spelling errors.
You mix up two letters
and your whole post is
urined.

Copy editing

❑ Look for:
  ❑ Typing & spelling errors
  ❑ Grammar mistakes
    ❑ Verb tense
    ❑ Punctuation
  ❑ Misused words

Some rules are made to be broken

❑ Sometimes a situation calls for a fragment or run-on.

❑ Sometimes you give new meaning to a word or make one up.

❑ Create a "style guide" for this project and note
  ❑ How to spell each character and location's name
  ❑ Special words
  ❑ Special formatting

GOALS

Revising a whole book can be a daunting task.

It can be more manageable to break it down into micro-goals.

❑ I will fix this problem
 ❑ In chapter 1
 ❑ In chapter 2

These small goals add up to bigger goals.

Reward yourself for milestones!