

ANALYSIS GUIDELINES FOR REVIEWERS

1. How does the setting reflect the emotional meaning of this excerpt? As the reader, could you “see it and feel it” as you read? How entranced were you?
2. What is revealed about each character’s personality? How did the author Show us (versus Tell us) their characteristics? How could they be more interesting?
3. How has each character acted from or revealed his/her core traits?
4. What conflict occurs? External: Who wants WHAT; and what OBSTACLE keeps him/her from getting it? Internal: What is Pushing forward each character (desired goal, motive, want) countered by a Pulling Back (inner fear or wound)? What do the characters want at the end? Is it a “newspaper article” only relating a series of events that happened (Telling) with no subtext or insight into your characters?
5. Dialogue: What examples can you give of how each character speaks with a different and believable voice? (Variety of grammar, vocabulary, metaphors, etc.) If the dialogue is “on the nose,” give some specific examples. How is the exposition disguised?
6. Meaning: How does the writing resonate with the value systems of the characters? What is the meaning of this chapter?
7. Storytelling: How does this chapter tantalize you into having to find out what’s going to happen next? How has the plot advanced?
8. Summary: What is your overall impression? What suggestions for improvement can you offer: “What if...”