

Guided Questions for Beta Readers*

Read First

This template shares sample questions I used with beta readers for my children's books. A free download, this document is an extension of my March 2015 blog:

So, an Author Asks YOU to Be a Beta Reader – Now What?

http://bit.ly/3qffSyF_CatMichaels

Readers:

The sample will help you understand what kind of feedback you might offer an author

Writers:

Feel free to adapt and use these questions with your beta readers

If this template is helpful,

please follow my writing journey on social.

Love to have you join my team of readers, too.

Find me @

catmichaelswriter.com

Happy tales!

Cat Michaels

Tales for the young and young at heart

*Adapted from:

<https://writingcooperative.com/15-questions-to-send-beta-first-readers-please-steal-3ff9fa198b5>

<https://betareader.io/2018/03/23/the-11-most-popular-beta-reader-questions/>

Cover Page – Welcome, Directions for Beta Readers

Just Between Sam and Me

a tale of courage and kindness for tweens

by Cat Michaels and Rosie Russell

Sixth grade is tough with a mean girl against you

So excited to have you as a beta reader for my new book co-written with Rosie Russell!

A beta reader is someone who...

- reads an unfinished (but polished!) manuscript
- offers honest feedback on how the story, characters and plot hold up

You are a crucial part of our publishing and writing project for *Just Between Sam and Me*. **Your** feedback is invaluable to help us fine-tune our tale before we release it.

To guide with your comments, please read your pdf manuscript and jot down honest feedback to any or all of the questions on the following pages about the book's scope, characters, plot, etc. We're looking for both positive comments and suggestions to improve. Simple phrases and incomplete sentences are perfect. Plus, spelling doesn't count -:D. And if certain questions don't resonate, just leave them blank.

Kindly return your scanned handwritten or typed soft-copy notes (entering into this document is ok!) to Cat at cat@catmichaelswriter.com by **DATE**. Please contact me if you're snail-mailing hard copies of your feedback.

Let me know if you have any questions. Happy tales, and many thanks again!

Cat Michaels

Structure

1. Did you get oriented quickly at the beginning about the characters and where and when tale takes place? If not, why, and what got in the way?
2. Were there any parts of the book that confused you? Or frustrated or annoyed you? Which parts, and why?
3. Did you notice any discrepancies or inconsistencies in time sequences, places, character details, or other details? Please be as specific as you can and add page numbers when possible.
4. Was the book's structure helpful and effective as organized around the school year and seasons?

Plot

5. Did the writing, content and vocabulary suit children ages 8-12.? If not, why not?
6. What did you like most about the action in the story?
7. What did you like least?
8. Where did you get bored (It's ok if you did!)?
9. Was there enough conflict, tension, and intrigue to keep your interest? Kids' interest?
10. Was the ending satisfying? Believable? Was the payoff in the end worth reading the whole book?

Sample – Guided Questions for Beta Readers

11. Did you notice any obvious, repeating grammatical, spelling, punctuation or capitalization errors? Please add page numbers and examples, when possible.

Characters

12. Which character did you enjoy the most? The least? Why?

13. Were the characters believable? Any characters that could be made more interesting or more likable?

14. Did you get confused about who's who? Were there too many characters to keep track of? Too few? Any of the characters' names too similar?

15. Do you believe that kids aged 8-12 will relate to our main character, Olivia?

Setting

16. Did the setting interest you? Did its descriptions seem vivid and real to you?

17. Did the scenes with animals and horses feel authentic to you? Where could we improve?

Dialogue

18. Did the dialogue keep your interest and sound natural? If not, whose dialogue sounded artificial or not like that person would speak?

19. Do you think 8-12 yo kids will stay interested in the *Dear Sam* sections, where Olivia writes in her journal? Does the journal come across as if an 11-yo girl is writing it?

General Feedback

20. What's your favorite part of this book?
21. If you could change anything to make the story better, what would you change?
22. What's a good title for this book? (tbh, titles are the hardest for us to choose!)
24. Anything else you want Rosie and I to know?