

DIY Book, Episode 09

Fin!



Editing cheat-sheet

- Put the work aside for a while before editing.
- Read it aloud.
- Read pages out of sequence.
- Use a ruler and read line by line.
- Try to read like a reader, not a writer.
- Spelling
- Omitted and double words
- Remnants from past edits
- Parallelism
- Proper use of apostrophes
- Consistent style choices (inverted commas, hyphens, section breaks)
- Unclear pronoun reference
- Double-spaces after full-stop
- Dialogue attribution: "said" is generally preferred to any more colourful synonyms.
- Florid adjectives, purple prose
- Shifting point-of-view
- Complex verbs: Verb + some form of "to be" can nearly always be simplified
- Natalie Goldberg: "For every cosmic statement you make, you must supply ten specific details."
- Show, don't tell
- Specificity: not "tree" but "pine", or even "Douglas Fir".
- Vernacular narration, commenting on characters
- Gaps or jumps in the passage of time
- Consistency of directions, geography
- Objects, their placement in space, their number
- Character names changing
- Relationships ("I thought he had two brothers.")
- Fact-references