

How to be a Good Writing Partner

• Stay positive! • Be specific! •

Compliment the author and be specific

"I really liked where you _____ because _____"

"My favorite paragraph (or part) was that one because _____"

"I liked the way that you _____"

Seek first to understand, then to be understood

Ask questions of the author and make sure you know enough to make suggestions.

"Can you tell me about your story so far?"

"Were you trying to sound really funny here?"

"Was this part supposed to be mysterious and creepy?"

"What were you trying to accomplish in this chapter?"

Locate specific places in the writing that demonstrate good examples:

Locate specific places that could be improved:

- **Ideas:** Where are the ideas fresh or original?
- **Organization:** Where does it flow well?
- **Voice:** Where does the writer's personality show?
- **Word choice:** Where were the words thoughtfully chosen?
- **Use of details:** Where are there details that create images?
- **Sentence length(s):** How well varied are the sentences?
- **Conventions:** Check for spelling, punctuation and grammar.
- **Presentation:** How does the piece look?

"These examples are excellent because... Your strongest section is"

"You chose great words here because _____"

"The details here were really vivid because _____"

"I think this paragraph wasn't as descriptive as some of your others."

"I was a bit confused in this section because I wasn't sure where they were."

"The sentences here sounded a lot the same. Did you mean to do that?"

Suggest ideas for improvements

"Maybe you could add..."

"What if you tried..."

"I think Wendy Mass does that really well. Check out her book _____"

Make or mark **corrections** on the piece

Look for spelling, grammar, and punctuation mistakes.

Encourage them to keep writing!

Not Useful Feedback

- LOL
- Repetitive
- Needs more
- Cool memory moment
- Thin part
- Confusing
- A & A
- What
- Add more
- Confusing
- More description

Useful Feedback

- This part is funny because it's so random!
- I feel like you tried this a couple of pages ago. What else could you try here?
- What are you trying to do here? It seems like you are trying to be mysterious. Maybe adding a riddle or puzzle would work.
- Cool memory moment! Is this going to be important later? You could use this when she doubts herself.
- This is a great place to practice the "show don't tell" thing. Seems like this could become at least two more paragraphs.
- I was a bit confused in this section because I wasn't sure where they were. Maybe add some details about the setting.
- This is an Again & Again. Is this on purpose? What do you want to do?
- Perfect place for Words of the Wiser!
- Aha Moment nicely done! I'd like to know more about what she was thinking.
- C & C - He is behaving differently from the first chapter. Was this on purpose? If so, I feel like there needs to more of a reason.
- New character! Could use Tolkien's full paragraph mini lesson here.