Questions to Ask While Editing Your Manuscript

This is an extra resource to go along with the original article: DIY Your Edit: 11 Tips You Need to Shape Up Your Manuscript

Questions to Ask About Plot, Pacing and Tension

- Is the plot engaging?
- Is the plot logical?
- Are all issues resolved?
- Does the plot make sense?
- Is there a hook?
- Is the plot focused?
- Are there surprises in the plot?
- Is the ending inevitable or in some way boring?
- Is there a climax?
- Is there a struggle? Is there tension?
- Have you addressed the conflict within each character?
- Have you identified how the characters struggle with each other?

Questions to Ask About Point of View

- Is the point of view clear throughout the story?
- Does the point of view shift around within a scene? A chapter?

Questions to Ask About Character Development

- Does every character have a strength?
- Does every character have a weakness?
- Have you properly arched all characters?
- Does the antagonist have motivation?
- Does the protagonist have motivation?
- Are there any unnecessary characters?
- Can you combine any two characters into one?

Questions to Ask About Scenes

- Does every scene move the story forward?
- How do the characters interact with the scene?
- Does the scene fit the genre?
- Does the scene fit the time period?
- Have you added too many details and weighed down the story?

**Questions to Ask About Word Choices and Phrasing**
- Have you chosen the right words to describe each scene?
- Have you eliminated weak words and phrasing?
- Have you cut out adverbs?
- Have you embraced active voice?