

Between Past and Present: Tales and Tides of the Little Spokane

Summary:

Positives, strengths, what we like about this manuscript:

The manuscript vividly delves into the rich local history of the Spokane region, bringing to life historical figures, the architectural intricacies of ancient structures, and offering a glimpse into past lifestyles, such as through a detailed description of a log structure with its axe-notched ends, alongside providing historical context about Peavine Jimmy. Beyond a historical narrative, the manuscript astutely observes and comments on environmental shifts and their impacts on the local habitat, noting the war on native bunch grass, the repercussions of electricity production on the river, and the evolution in the usage of local water bodies. This rich tapestry is woven together through a unique, reflective, and somewhat whimsical narrative style that keeps the reader engaged. The manuscript adopts varied formats including letters, narratives, and a noxious weed board nomination, each providing a unique lens through which the story is unveiled, adding a multi-dimensional aspect to the storytelling.

Brief summary of the primary issues that need editing:

The narrative could benefit from a developmental edit to flesh out hastily introduced characters and better integrate the vividly described settings with the story. Dialogues, need revisiting to ensure they advance the plot or character development. Consistency in tense usage and more precise imagery through line/copy editing, along with adding dialogue tags for clarity on the speaker, will improve the narrative flow. Lastly, a thorough proofreading is essential to correct spelling and typographical errors, enhancing the manuscript's overall quality and readability.

Questions we have for the author, ideas to keep in mind for marketing, reaching the target audience, etc:

Nothing at this point.

Example 1:

Issue: Character Introduction and Development:

Example: Characters like Viper Bugloss and Peavine Jimmy are introduced with rich background, but it might be beneficial to explore their relevance to the overarching narrative more deeply.

Explanation: Consider developing these characters within a particular narrative arc that ties back to the broader themes of the manuscript.

Solution: Developmental Edit

Example 2:

Issue: Setting Description

Example: Although there's a vivid description of the surroundings, the significance of the setting to the narrative isn't well explored. The narrative jumps between different locations (e.g., the old barn, the rivers, various historical sites) without providing a clear sense of place or its relevance to the narrative.

Explanation: Establish a stronger connection between the setting and the narrative. Explain why these places are important to the story or characters. Additionally, ensure that descriptions serve to forward the narrative or develop characters rather than merely paint a picture.

Solution: Developmental Edit and Line/Copy Edit

Example 3:

Issue: Historical Context

Example: The historical context enriches the narrative but may benefit from further explanation or relevance to the story being told. The reference to Chief Spokane Garry and Peavine Jimmy could be further explored to establish their importance to the narrative.

Explanation: Enhance historical references by tying them back to the narrative's main themes or storyline.

Solution: Developmental Edit

Example 4:

Issue: Narrative Focus

Example: There are parts in the manuscript where the narrative diverges into tangential details which may distract from the main narrative or confuse the reader. For example, the section discussing Viper Bugloss could be streamlined to maintain narrative focus.

Explanation: Consider revising sections with tangential details to maintain a tighter narrative focus. If these details are essential, ensure they are clearly connected to the main narrative.

Solution: Line/Copy Editing

Example 5:

Issue: Sentence Structure and Punctuation

Example: There are instances where sentence structures can be revised for clarity and punctuation can be corrected. For example, in the phrase “Electricity is produced to toast five-year-old Suzie’s root beer toaster pastry,” the purpose of mentioning Suzie’s pastry isn’t clear. The manuscript would benefit from rephrasing such sentences to elucidate the author’s intent.

Explanation: Revise the sentence to clarify its meaning or relevance to the narrative, or consider removing extraneous details that do not advance the narrative.

Solution: Line/Copy Editing

Example 6:

Issue: Dialogue

Example: The dialog between characters regarding upgrading the carpets or sound system could be formatted more traditionally to clearly indicate who is speaking.

Explanation: Formatting dialog with new lines for each speaker and using quotation marks can help clarify the conversation:

“Don’ need no frills to take away from my bottom line, if y’know what I mean?” one person remarked.

“Are you sure you wouldn’t want to upgrade the carpets or sound system? Maybe add an air conditioner?” the other responded.

“Just more money for you and less for me. Thank y’kindly, but no.”

Solution: Line/Copy Editing

Example 7:

Issue: Word Choice and Spelling

Example: Some phrases or words could be revised for precision or to maintain a consistent tone. For instance, “the fly amanita at the bottom of a whiskey glass” is a

striking image, but the meaning or symbolism might be clearer with a different or additional explanation.

Explanation: Correct the spelling: "He would often receive letters from children...".

Solution: Spelling and word choice need a closer look in phrases like "an apple might be really good," where "an apple pie" might have been intended.

Takeaways:

Dream Fish The Little Spokane unfolds as a complex, multi-faceted narrative brimming with historical anecdotes, cultural reflections, and fictionalized letters and dialogues, portraying a tapestry of themes and characters across various time frames. While its diverse narrative style is engaging, it may necessitate some editing for enhanced clarity and reader engagement.

A developmental edit and reorganization might help in neatly categorizing the themes, ensuring a smoother transition between the varied timelines and character arcs. Ensuring consistency in tone, voice, and style will further bolster the reader's journey through the narrative, even if the disjointed narrative style is intentional. A thematic or stylistic thread could help tie the disparate elements together, and smoother transitions between sections could alleviate any disorientation due to abrupt changes.

In terms of line/copy editing, rephrasing certain sentences or phrases could bring about clearer comprehension, especially when transitioning between different perspectives or themes. A meticulous review for grammatical accuracy, correct punctuation, and syntax would greatly enhance the manuscript's readability, while revising repeated phrases or words would eliminate redundancy. Optimizing word choice, experimenting with varied sentence structures, and ensuring the evocativeness and clarity of the descriptive language used could significantly enhance the narrative's rhythmic flow and engagement factor.

A final proofreading pass is crucial to catch any overlooked spelling, punctuation, or grammatical errors, ensuring a polished finish. Furthermore, if the manuscript intends to present accurate historical or cultural references, a thorough review for factual accuracy is imperative to uphold the manuscript's credibility and authenticity.