

Understanding

# BOOK EDITORS:

Who you need & when you need them



## A DEVELOPMENTAL EDITOR

Looks at the "**big picture.**" They focus on things like **plot, character development, theme, point of view,** etc.

**When:** If you want guidance writing your story, or when you've finished a draft and want to know if it "works" or not.



## A LINE EDITOR

Focuses on **writing style & voice,** pointing out **awkward phrasing, unnecessary repetition, telling vs. showing, passive voice, dialogue,** and flagging any **inconsistencies.**

**When:** You know your draft is structurally sound and "works."



## A COPY EDITOR

Corrects **spelling, grammar, and punctuation.** They will address **commonly confused words** as well as **ensure consistency** with capitalization, hyphenation, and numerals.

**When:** Your draft works, and your prose has been polished.



## A PROOF READER

Makes sure your book is as error-free as possible. They check the "proof copy" for **typographical errors** as well as look for **layout and page number problems.**

**When:** The book is formatted for print or digital publication.



## ACQUISITION EDITOR

Works for a publishing company. They **acquire manuscripts & evaluate the book's ability to sell** once it gets published.

**When:** After a developmental edit, a line edit & a copy edit if you plan to traditionally publish.