

# Editing Checklist

## Big Picture

- Is there a clear theme of the novel?
- Is the pacing steady - are any areas rushed, or too slow?
- Does the opening paragraph grab readers?
- Does the story flow smoothly?
- Is the setting shown clearly?
- Is the conflict for your characters large enough to carry the story?
- Are all subplots wrapped up neatly? (This may not be the case for a series, but they should be at least closed enough to end the book.)
- Are all plot issues resolved?
- Is there enough surprise for the reader?

## Technical Details

- Has spelling for all homophones been checked?
- Is all dialogue punctuated correctly?
- Is there consistency between use of oxford commas, etc?
- Have you searched for all repetitive words? (Do you know your catch words?)
- Is enough variety used in sentence structure?
- Do any sentences sound awkward when read out loud?
- Are all terms and phrases appropriate for your historical era, genre, and characters?
- Have you checked for passive writing?
- Are dialogue tags appropriate, not over used, and non distracting from the story?