

Artisan ReviewSM

Quality Control for Independent Publishers and Writers Wondering What to Do Next

11-page draft for a chapter in an episodic novel

1. The ice-cream shop does indeed qualify as a building, but it isn't a "parlor." That one word threw me off to where I didn't know which way one looked through the window – out from a table or, as at a walk-up store with no seating, customers look in through the window and their ice cream is handed out to them.
2. The two boys sharing a bike is confusing and needs some clarification. Which one's is it? Is it important that it's the same color as the bike the girl narrator is so proud of?
3. I have some trouble picturing how she rides with a milkshake in her hand.
4. The story of the boy answering too much in science class is a mostly unnecessary digression, but also illogical – you said they were in the slow class? But if he is in the same science review, it's important whether he knew the answers.
5. You say the boys "passed at ferocious speed." Are they in the street? Can you give a better idea of how fast?
6. R's feelings are good here and well done, but they mustn't break up the suddenness of the accident. She doesn't have time to consider her feelings between the screech of brakes and the crashing sound.
7. What became of the people in the station wagon? If the doors are open, they've either run off or are on the scene, freaking out.
8. She needs to take a longer way back to her ice cream routine. Does she avoid that corner, maybe take a different route when she does start back? Does she walk for the first few trips? After you had her mother warning and worrying at the start, I wonder how her mother handled the accident?