

What to expect when you are looking at critique groups

When you join a new critique group, expect to participate on a trial basis. Don't worry, they won't be judging whether you are good enough or not, but seeing if your personality meshes with the personalities of those already in the group.

Find out from the group leader, how the group does critiques.

When bringing a manuscript to a critique group, we recommend you have edited it to the best of your ability. The more polished your manuscript, the better and more specific feedback you'll get.

Be prepared to tell the following about your manuscript. This info will assist others in providing helpful feedback.

- Genre/format of your piece
 - Magazine article or short story
 - Picture book
 - Early reader
 - Chapter of a novel – if not the first chapter, give brief background
- Intended audience
 - Preschool
 - Chapter book
 - Middle grade (MG)
 - Young adult (YA)

Don't worry if this group isn't a match. Another one may be.

Resources

How to deal with critiquing—from all sides. <http://www.therthdi mension.org/FictionWriting/How to Cope with Critiquing/how to cope with critiquing.htm>

The Diplomatic Critiquer: The Nitty Gritty of How To Be One by Andrew Burt
<http://www.critters.org/diplomacy.ht>

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