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## Developmental Edit Checklist

### Plot:

- Plot holes, gaps or leaps, plausible and consistent with the universe (loose plot threads, logical sequence of events, not confusing, clear & understandable to readers)
- Pacing – appropriate changes in speed to match mood and urgency. Do we need to add a ticking clock to shore up a sagging middle?
- Proportion (side characters and side plots work in services of main characters & main plot and don't overshadow or detract)

### POV:

- Consistent, with solid transitions (if more than 1)
- Appropriate for the genre and age category
- Flag head-hopping / may need to educate author on why this isn't recommended

### Characters:

- GMC (Goal, motivation & conflict) are clear, compelling, consistent with who the character is in this universe. Their actions are consistent with their goal and motivation.
- Growth arcs, misbelief/lie they believe
- Characters are distinct from each other – sound/think/act differently (esp POV characters)
- Appropriate number of POV characters and are good choices to carry the narration.

### Conflict/Tension:

- Is there enough conflict to compel readers to keep reading, wondering if MC will achieve their goal?
- Is there conflict between various characters (or is it all external) – genre expectations
- Recommend micro-tension to spice up some dull scenes

### Worldbuilding/Settings:

- Sensory clues, consistent with rules of universe, supports the plot
- Historical accuracy and word usage (depends on genre)

**Audience & Genre Expectations** – Is the manuscript consistent with current market/comps?

### Additional Developmental Editing Considerations:

- Continuity – characters don't change names accidentally, take off pants twice, Chekov's gun
- Foreshadowing
- Info-dumps / backstory
- Dialogue, not too on the nose/ As you know, Bob
- Deliver on promise to readers