



Author's Name Jean Abbott  
The Science Kids:  
Manuscript Title Danny's Diaper

Manuscript Word Count \_\_\_\_\_

# EDITING CONTENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Your title is now moving into the final editing stages. Please complete the following questionnaire regarding your title: Please be as specific as possible when completing the questionnaire.

As an author, you might not realize just how much intervention your writing needs to make it readable and publishable. A request to prioritize your style and voice could still mean that a lot of grammatical corrections are necessary. These are all things your editor needs to know to avoid making unnecessary changes.

Is there a rule you would like your editor to disregard because you have purposefully gone against convention in your manuscript?

*EXAMPLE: I'm British and I expect most of my sales will come from my British audience. Could you please retain my British English wording and spelling, such as boot for trunk, and favourite for favorite? I also prefer references to God, such as "He" and "Him," to remain capitalized.*

No  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

After referencing What to Expect, are there rules or "trouble zones" you would like your editor to pay special attention?

*EXAMPLE: I often misspell or omit words. The misspelled words may be difficult to find because they may be similar ("the" for "this" or "he" for "the") to the word I'm trying to spell. Character names may be spelled inconsistently throughout the book.*

I am not sure where my trouble  
zones are, but I am open to feedback.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



While editing your book, would you prefer your editor to use the simple past tense of (went, occurred, etc.) or past perfect tense of (had gone, had occurred, etc.)?

**Examples:**

- (simple) We went our separate ways after graduating high school but kept in touch.
- (perfect) We had gone our separate ways after graduating high school but had kept in touch.
- (simple) After the previous incidents, I forgave him and did not look back.
- (perfect) After the previous incidents, I had forgiven him and had not looked back.
- (simple) I was nominated for three categories.
- (perfect) I had been nominated for three categories.
- (simple) She told me it all began before her marriage.
- (perfect) She told me it had all begun before her marriage.

simple past tense

The job of your editor is to edit your manuscript and preserving your voice, which could be in direct conflict with applying standard English grammar. This could be a huge judgement call for your editor. *In cases where your editor needs to choose between preserving something about the way you write and applying standard English grammar, which would you prefer?*

**Example:**

**Original text:** She told me if I didn't go over his house last night I wouldnt be in this mess now. I said I know I got to apollogeize and she says I won't never be able to make it right.

- Edited to prioritize the author's voice and style: She told me that if I didn't go over to his house last night, I wouldn't be in this mess now. I said I know I got to apologize, and she said I won't ever be able to make it right.
- Edited to prioritize standard English grammar: She told me that if I hadn't gone to his house the night before, I wouldn't be in this mess now. I said I knew I needed to apologize, and she said I would never be able to make it right.

author's voice and style

this is a story of four little kids  
it should sound like kids



What aspects of your writing are unique and define you as an author?

*SAMPLE ANSWER: My writing style is very casual and reflects the way I speak. I prefer short, choppy sentences and will not include commas if I think it interrupts the flow of the writing, especially in dialogue.*

I feel like I tried to capture the way my students would talk. They are little so their grammar wouldn't be perfect. I would like it to sound the way little kids would talk.

Are there areas in the manuscript where you would like your editor's feedback?

*SAMPLE ANSWER: During chapter 8, there's a chase scene; I obviously want this chapter to be noticeably faster paced than the other chapters. Do you think I was successful, or what can I improve?*

I am open to any suggestions. 😊

I do have some vocabulary words bolded and in italics. I was thinking about putting those words in a glossary in the back of the book with definitions. I don't have to do this. I also thought I could put a DIY page with pictures of how they could do the experiment at home.



What is your book's specific genre?

SAMPLE ANSWER: *Inspirational memoir about overcoming personal obstacles, young adult paranormal romance, historical fiction about Henry VIII, political mystery thriller.*

Children's book about science

Provide a thorough summary of your book. Don't be afraid to make this a long summary. Too much information is preferable to not enough.

*Highlight the main themes of the book. If you feel there are elements or "hooks" that will entice readers, please include them here.*

I wrote three science books about this group of four preschool/Kindergarten kids. Some books they accidentally discover an experiment, but in this book, they see it at school and then one girl goes home to try the experiment at home using one of her brother's diapers.

\* The kids don't know that the teacher had a super absorbent polymer white powder in one cup before she put the water in it. So, they were all surprised when she went to pour that cup over her head. They all expected the water to pour on her. I have done this experiment with students and the look on their faces is priceless!



Describe the specific tone, theme, and mood you would like your book to convey to readers.

FOR EXAMPLE: *a lighthearted and easy-to-use guide to home finances, etc.*

It's an upbeat book for children to get them excited and curious about science.  
"Science is like magic, but it's real."

Describe your target audience by factors such as age group, interests, education, gender, etc.  
Who do you envision purchasing and reading your book?

I hope teachers, parents and grandparents would buy this book for elementary school children.

What sets your book apart?

FOR EXAMPLE: *is there anything newsworthy, unique, or controversial about your book?*

When I was doing these experiments in class, I looked for books to help me introduce the science topics to young learners and I could not find what I was looking for out there.