

Dear Mr. Jones,

I very much enjoyed your manuscript and the stories you chose to include, and I think there is a great deal of value here for readers as well as aspiring writers and poets.

A few things you might consider moving forward:

1. Be careful of sentences that contain both colons (or semi-colons) and em-dashes. In places the manuscript feels over-punctuated.
2. There are a large number of author names and titles in this text. Please make sure you verify all for correctness.
3. Consider whether you would be willing to set all quotes in quotation marks. I recognize this is a style choice, but I'm concerned that without quotation marks it will be difficult for readers to identify the author's interjections by the lack of footnote alone. At a minimum, please make all consistent.
4. Please cite works properly. I recommend *The Chicago Manual of Style* as an excellent resource.
5. Consider moving the endnotes to the back of the book. I believe this would align with your apparent intent for this text, and also cause the least amount of disruption for readers .
6. Try to make consistent choices: for instance, in [story name deleted], you should choose between Kathy, Grandmother, or my grandmother, and use that throughout. Choices might vary between stories, but they should be consistent within them.
7. I wonder if the table of contents and the first page of each chapter (which seems to act as a sort of sub-table of contents) been formatted, or will that be left to the designer? Should the story titles be set in quotation marks on the first pages of the chapters?
8. Carefully consider your use of parentheses in prose, and assess whether this usage disrupts the flow.
9. Throughout the manuscript, it is sometimes "you" who is meant to see or think something; other times it is "we". It would be best to revise for consistency.
10. I'm concerned that readers may find the descriptions of the stories before they are read confusing or frustrating. This may be exacerbated by the fact that several stories are discussed at once, before the reader has had a chance to read any of them. It's very easy to forget what you have read about a particular story by the time you get there. I wonder how it would work to unpack the story after the text? I wonder if the readers would engage more fully with the explanation having read the story beforehand?
11. Please follow the same format in the introduction to each chapter, in terms of where the instructions for the assignment come (for example, after the story descriptions).
12. You might consider making some of the longer quotes block quotes. This may add to the clarity of the text.

13. Be careful of using too many lists without “and”. For example, “She had a big dinner: steak, beans, mashed potatoes, cheesecake.” I recognize that it is a style choice, but I wonder if readers may find it distracting if overused.
14. Try to eliminate qualifying statements such as “a bit”, “somewhat”, “about”, and “perhaps”. They weaken the narrative.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to work on your manuscript! I wish you the best of luck moving forward.

Sincerely,

Kellelynn H. Riley