* **Watch Out For:**
* ◻︎ Unclear speaker attribution
* ◻︎ Clichés; hackneyed phrases
* ◻︎ Excess adjectives, adverbs and weak verbs
* ◻︎ Too much dialogue/internal monologue versus description
* ◻︎ Unnecessary explanation; telling, not showing
* ◻︎ Superlatives instead of precise words
* ◻︎ Overwriting, flowery prose; showing off
* ◻︎ Word and phrase repetition
* ◻︎ Mixed/jarring similes and metaphors
* ◻︎ Too visual/audio—not enough of other senses
* ◻︎ No variation in sentence length, style
* ◻︎ No foreshadowing
* **And Beware:**
* ◻︎ Too much backstory before inciting incident
* ◻︎ Lurching tone (comedy or thriller?)
* ◻︎ Saggy second act (slow in the middle)
* ◻︎ Digression (stuff that doesn’t move story along)
* ◻︎ One pace (nonstop action)
* ◻︎ Deus ex machina resolves plot
* ◻︎ Unfocused plot
* ◻︎ Unclear premise
* ◻︎ Characters don’t change
* ◻︎ Weak themes
* ◻︎ Stakes too low/characters dull
* ◻︎ Set-ups not handled properly
* ◻︎ Plot too obvious
* ◻︎ Plot too convoluted
* ◻︎ Believability
* ◻︎ Character motivations don’t ring true
* ◻︎ Plot and character not intertwined
* ◻︎ Lacks emotional highs and lows
* ◻︎ Stereotypical characters
* ◻︎ Plot holes
* Limit your use of:
* ◻︎ However
* ◻︎ Will be
* ◻︎ As if
* ◻︎ As though
* ◻︎ -Ly endings
* ◻︎ That
* ◻︎ Had
* ◻︎ Has
* ◻︎ Has been
* ◻︎ Had been
* ◻︎ But
* ◻︎ And
* ◻︎ Then
* ◻︎ About
* ◻︎ Was
* ◻︎ As
* ◻︎ Very
* ◻︎ Were
* ◻︎ Began
* ◻︎ Just
* ◻︎ Really
* ◻︎ Repetitive words
* ◻︎ Repetitive phrases
* ◻︎ Ellipses
* ◻︎ Italics
* Use:

◻︎ backward, not backwards

◻︎ Toward, not towards

◻︎ Serial (Oxford) comma