

THE WRITING ESSENTIALS – EVA WONG NAVA

Sensitivity Editing

A sensitivity editor is someone who is paid to read, assess, and review unpublished manuscripts for issues of misrepresentation, cultural inaccuracies, unconscious biases, passive and blatant racism, offensive stereotypes and tropes, and/or problematic language.

Sensitivity editors are hired on a freelance-basis for a range of projects, based on their areas of expertise and lived experiences. They make editorial recommendations by highlighting certain aspects of the manuscript that could cause offense if published. The writer is free to take on board or reject these suggestions. A sensitivity reader, like any editor, is never prescriptive.

Sensitivity editors, like any editor, want to ensure that diverse characters (written by an author outside of the community) are nuanced and not stereotyped. As human beings, we are all diverse, dynamic and unique. If there are stereotypes, a sensitivity editor ensures that these are not offensive or hurtful. It is never good to make fun of another person for their culture, language and heritage.

A sensitivity editor also makes sure that visual representations are done sensitively. They look at symbols and signs. They understand that symbols are culturally-specific and not everyone sees and interprets a sign the same way.

Last but not least, a sensitivity editor knows that everyone has different sensibilities when it comes to being represented in books, film and media. They want to make sure that authors are being incidentally inclusive and not tokenistic.

For more information on working with a sensitivity editor, read [this article](#).

My Areas of Expertise and Lived Experiences

- International Chinese diaspora experience: culture, heritage, creeds, beliefs and practices.
- Southeast Asian diaspora experience, in particular Singapore and Malaysia.
- Southeast Asian history: Southeast Asia comprises nations such as Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Brunei, Myanmar, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia (also known as Indochine).
- Southeast Asian myths, folk lore and fairytales.
- East Asian history, with particularly emphasis on Chinese migration, immigration to the United Kingdom, British Malaya and British colonies.

- East Asian traditions & practices, with particular emphasis on Lunar New Year celebrations; Hungry Ghost Festival; Catholicism and Protestantism; Daoism, Buddhism, and Confucianism.
- East Asian myths, folk lore and fairytales.
- East and Southeast Asian representation in children's books: textual and visual.
- Growing up in a third-culture/ the outsider experience: this looks particularly at the experiences of individuals or communities who are born in and of one culture while living in another. For example, this experience may encompass being a constant expatriate.

My Packages

Picture books:

For a text-only manuscript – £100/€120/USD\$138.

For a text + visual analysis of a picture book manuscript – £150/€180/USD\$208.

Contact me for a commission: enquiries@evawongnava.com

This includes a written manuscript evaluation (report) with a 30-minute phone consultation.

Manuscripts:

Historical Fiction, Fantasy, Magic Realist, Romance, Narrative Nonfiction. Age categories: Middle-grade, Young Adult, New Adult, and Adult.

* Every project is different. Contact me for a quote: enquiries@evawongnava.com

This includes a written manuscript evaluation (report) with a 30-minute phone consultation.

Film and Theatre Scripts:

Historical Fiction, Fantasy, Magic Realist, Romance, Rom-com, Sci-fi.

* Every project is different. Contact me for a quote: enquiries@evawongnava.com

This includes a written manuscript evaluation (report) with a 30-minute phone consultation.

My Caveats

- My taking on a sensitivity editing project is not an endorsement of the manuscript, nor is it a guarantee that the manuscript is free from any other problematic issues.
- Remember that I read for specific areas of expertise and lived experiences listed above; I cannot comment on areas I have no knowledge or a lived experience of.
- I shall not be held liable or responsible for whatever decisions the publisher or author chooses to do with my recommendations.
- I ask that the publisher or author seek my permission before including my name in any way or form.
- I ask that my name is not misused or abused due to the recommendations that were made, as each project is unique and my recommendations are specific to the project.

* If you appreciate what I have done for you, please recommend me to your friends and colleagues.