

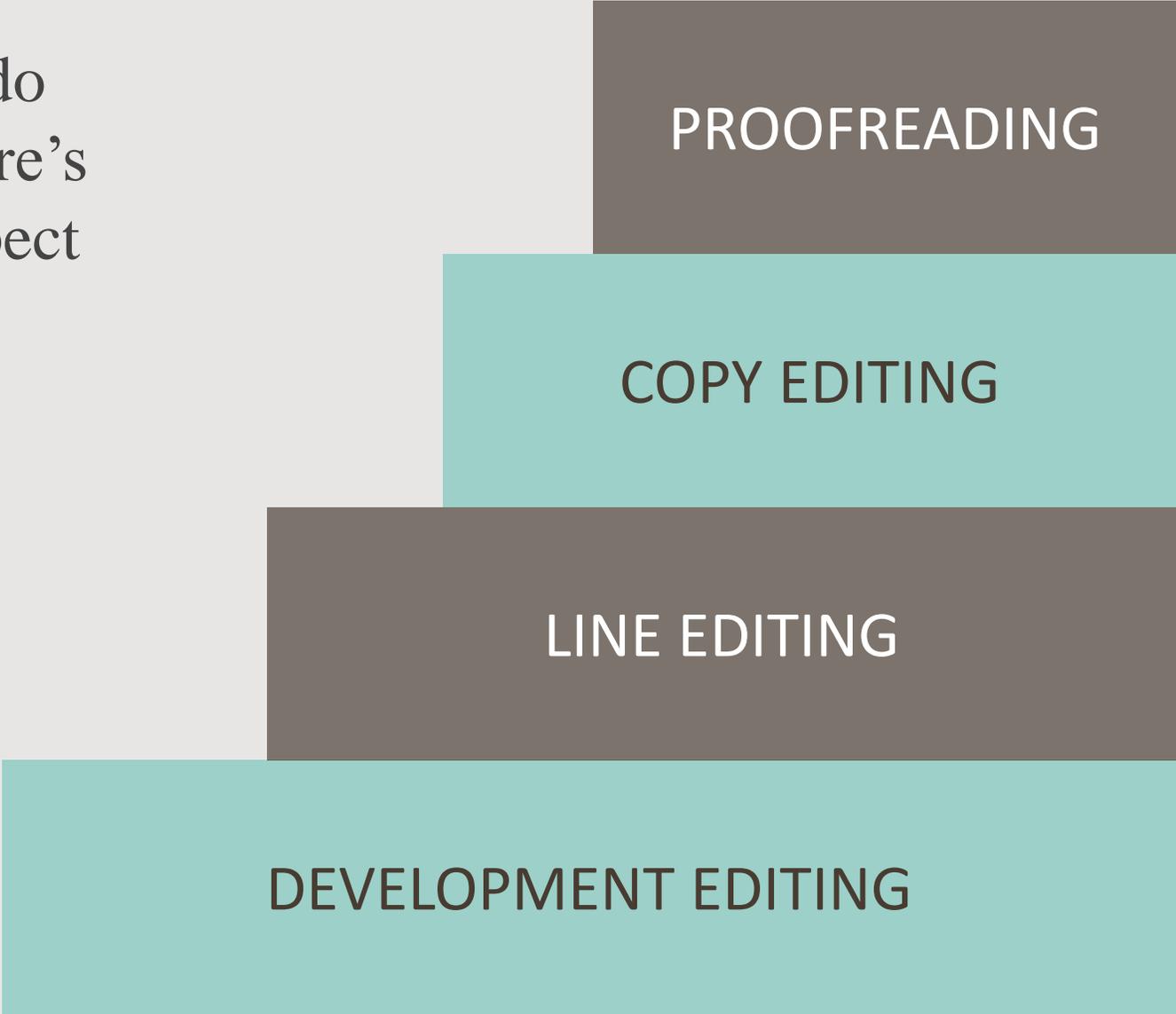


# What kind of editing do I need?

*Deborah Blake*  
••• EDITING •••

The editing process can seem daunting to anyone who isn't familiar with it.

With so many different types, how do you know which one to choose? Here's a brief guide explaining what to expect at each level.



PROOFREADING

COPY EDITING

LINE EDITING

DEVELOPMENT EDITING

Development editing is the first step. It looks at the big-picture issues of a story, rather than the mechanics of the writing. The editor will be concentrating on:

Plot

Characterisation

Structure

Tension

Pacing

Theme

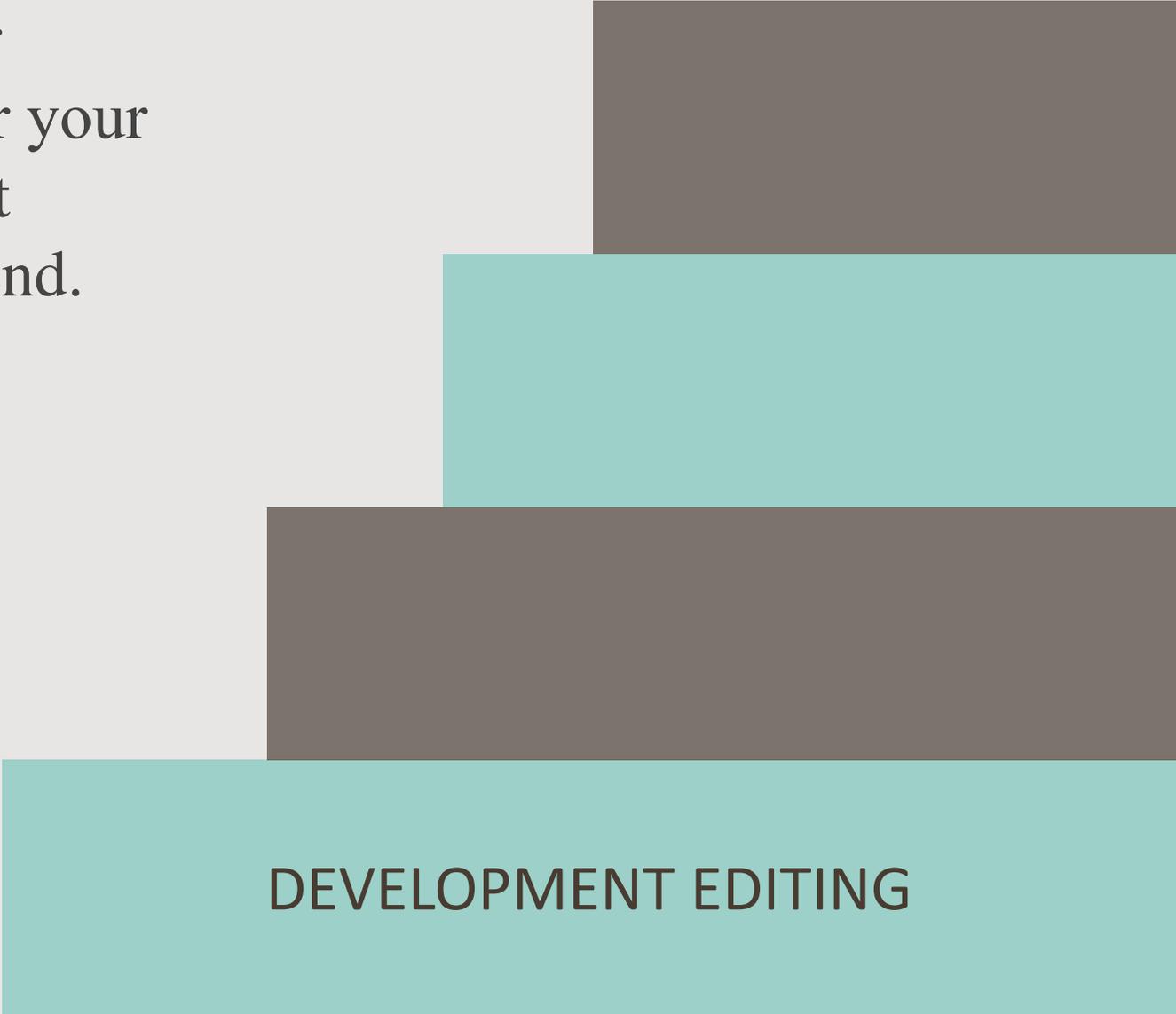
Genre

Narrative style



DEVELOPMENT EDITING

When the development editor has finished, you'll have a story that will keep your readers gripped. They'll be rooting for your characters and itching to find out what happens but not wanting the book to end.



DEVELOPMENT EDITING

Line editing is the second stage. This sentence-level editing focuses on improving the text by looking at areas such as:

Clarity

Sentence structure

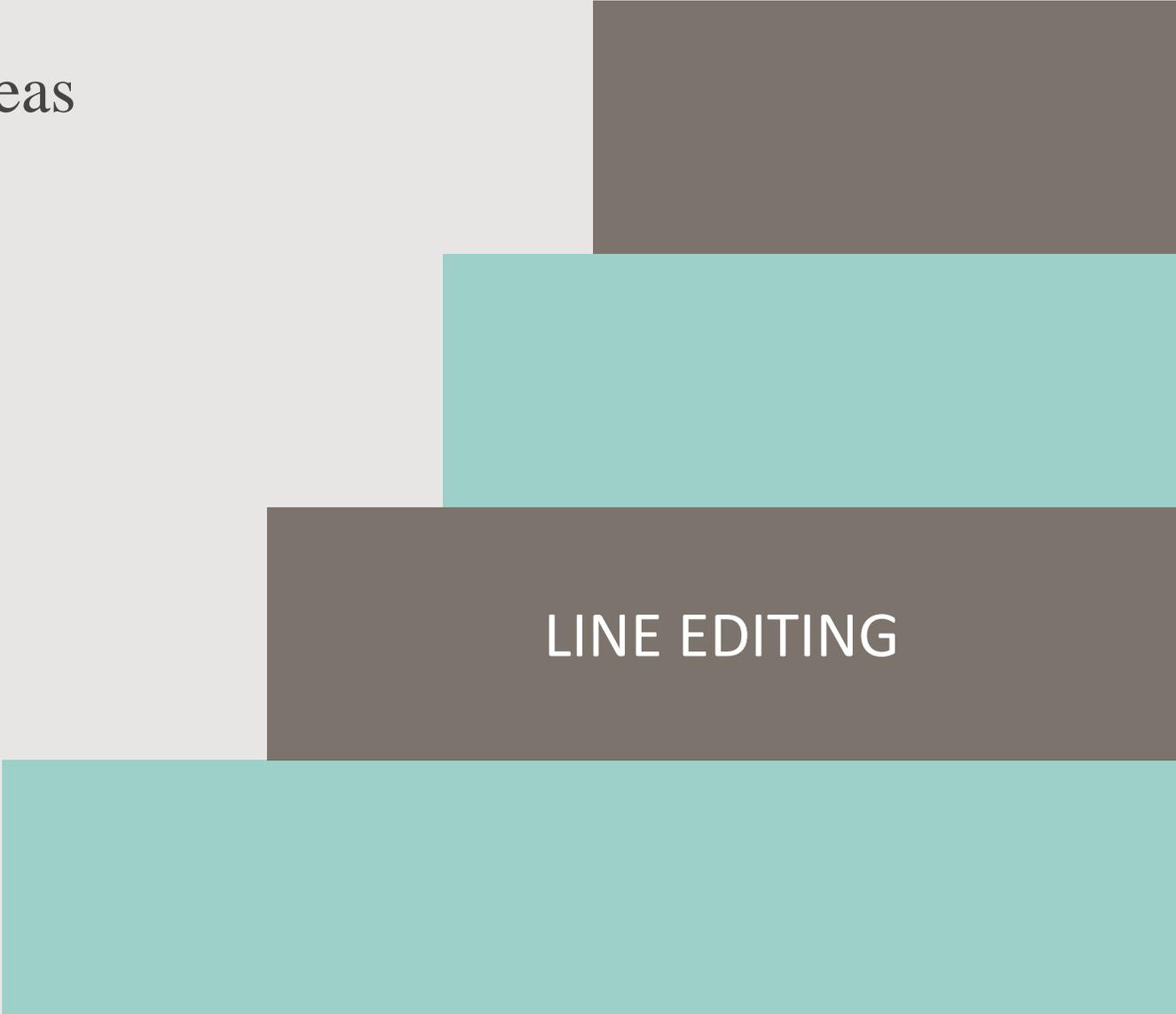
Dialogue

Wordiness

Repetition

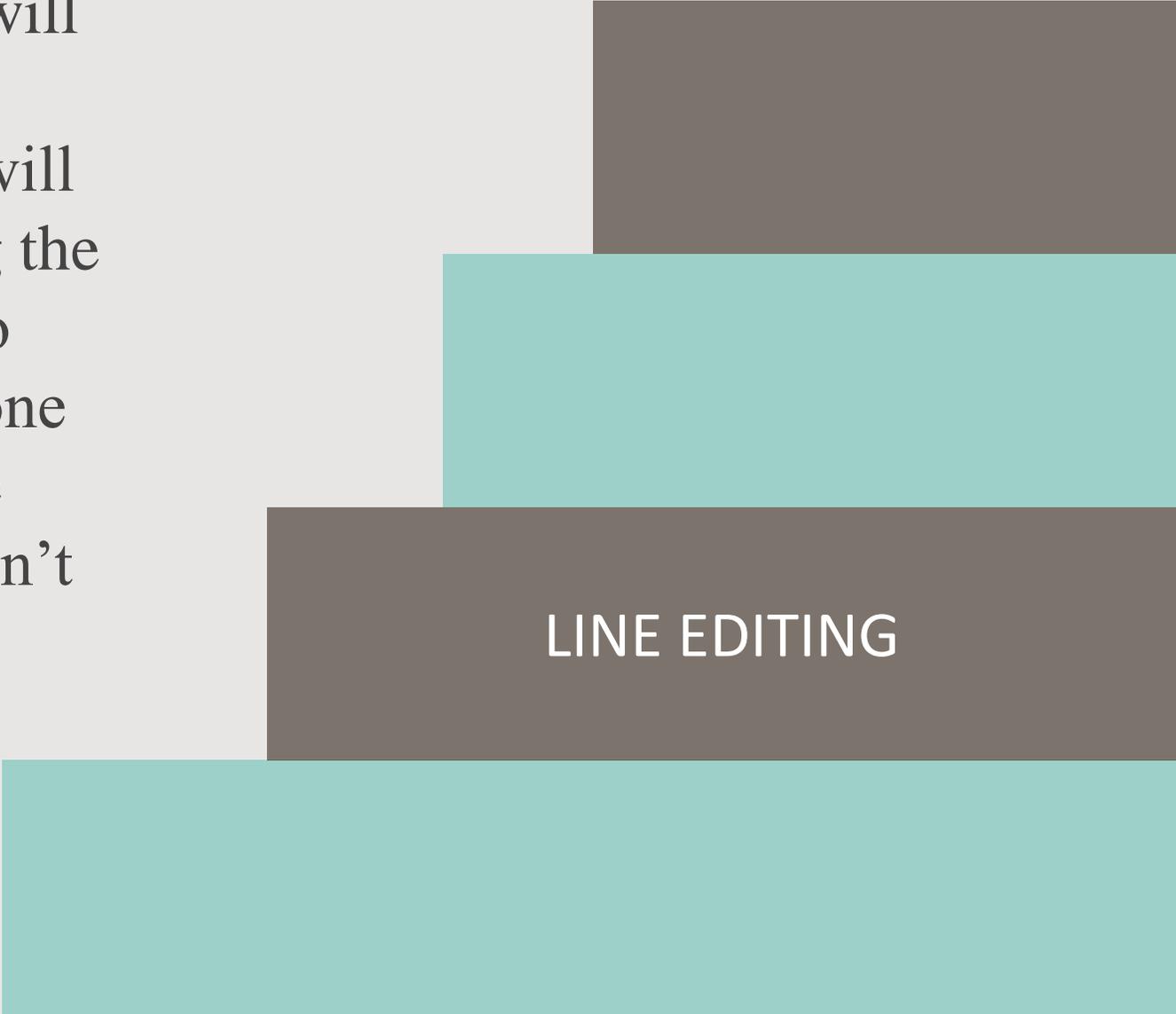
Right balance of show & tell

Too much description



LINE EDITING

After line editing, your sentences will flow beautifully, and the dialogue will be totally in keeping with your characters' personalities. Nothing will distract your readers from enjoying the story that you've worked so hard to create. Despite everything that's gone on behind the scenes, it will still be your story and your voice. That won't change.



LINE EDITING

Next comes the copy edit. Sometimes there's an overlap between this and line editing, but generally a copy editor will be checking for:

Clarity

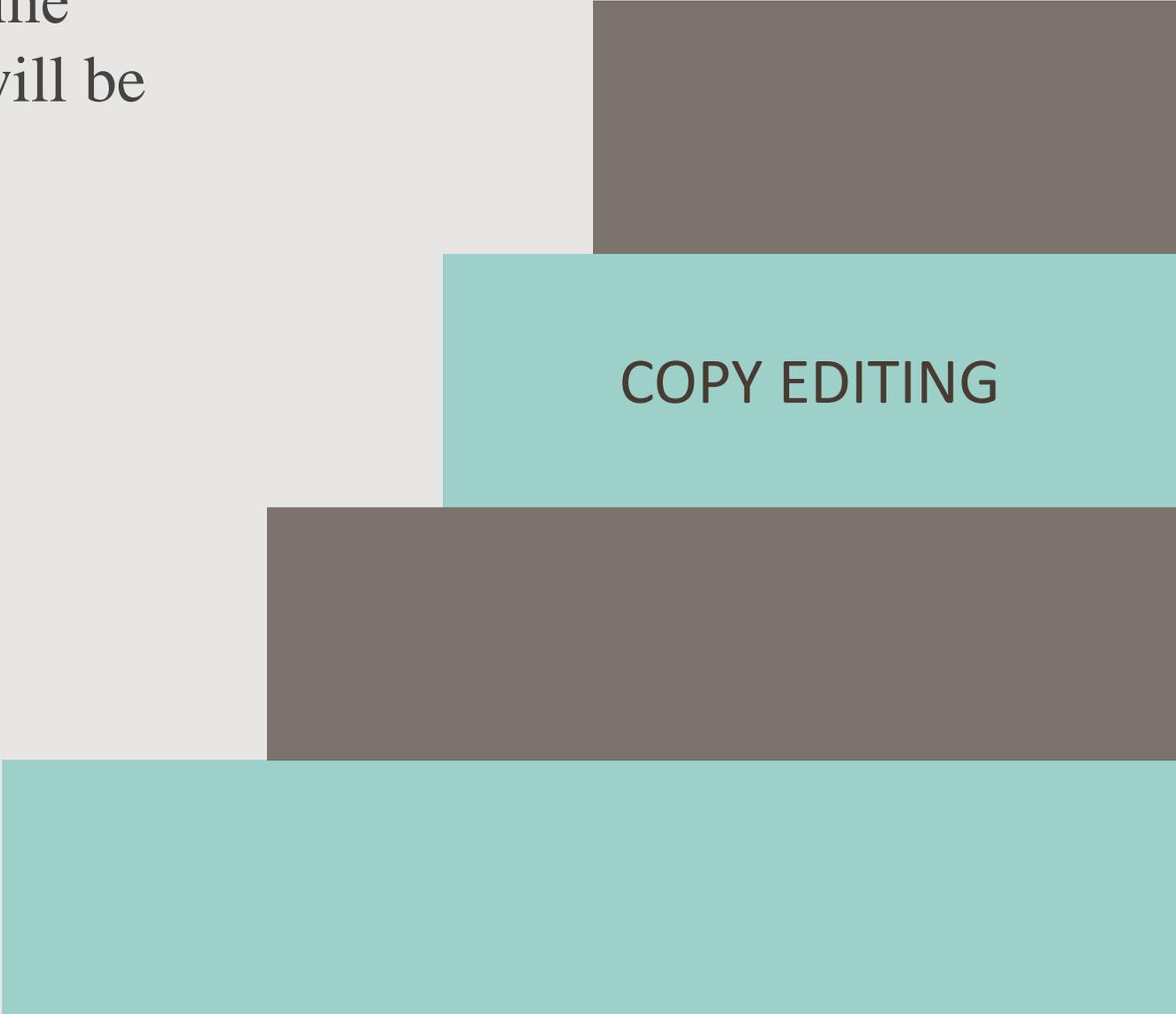
Consistency

Minor plot holes

Timelines

Basic facts

Spelling, grammar and punctuation



COPY EDITING

The copy editor will give you style sheets containing the decisions they've made. They will include details of your characters' traits, timeline of events, locations, and spelling choices. If you later decide to turn your novel into a series, you can use the style sheets to make sure everything follows on perfectly.



COPY EDITING

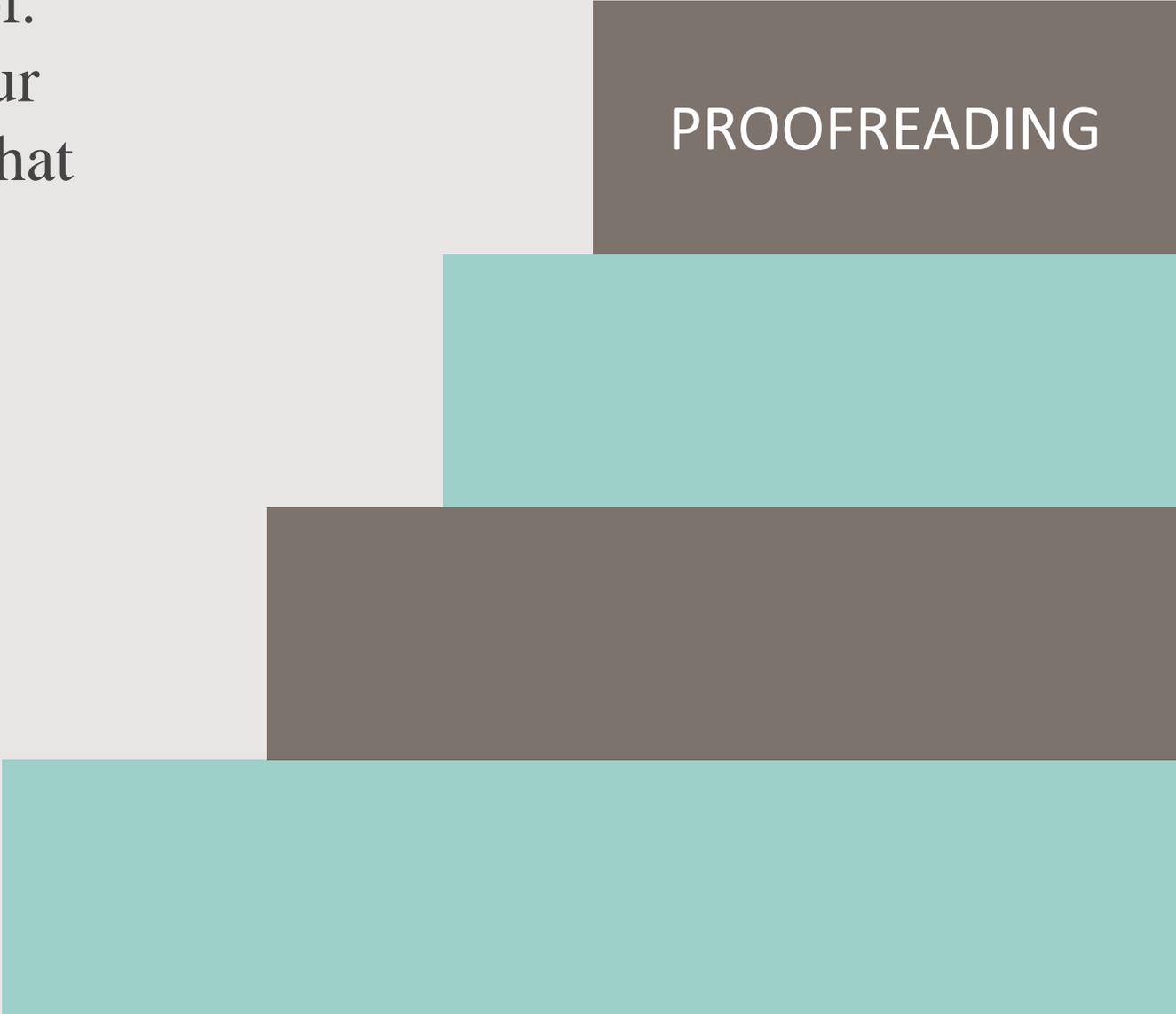
Proofreading is the final stage. Think of it as a kind of literary quality control. The proofreader will go through your manuscript to check for any errors that have slipped through including:

Formatting errors

Page and chapter numbering

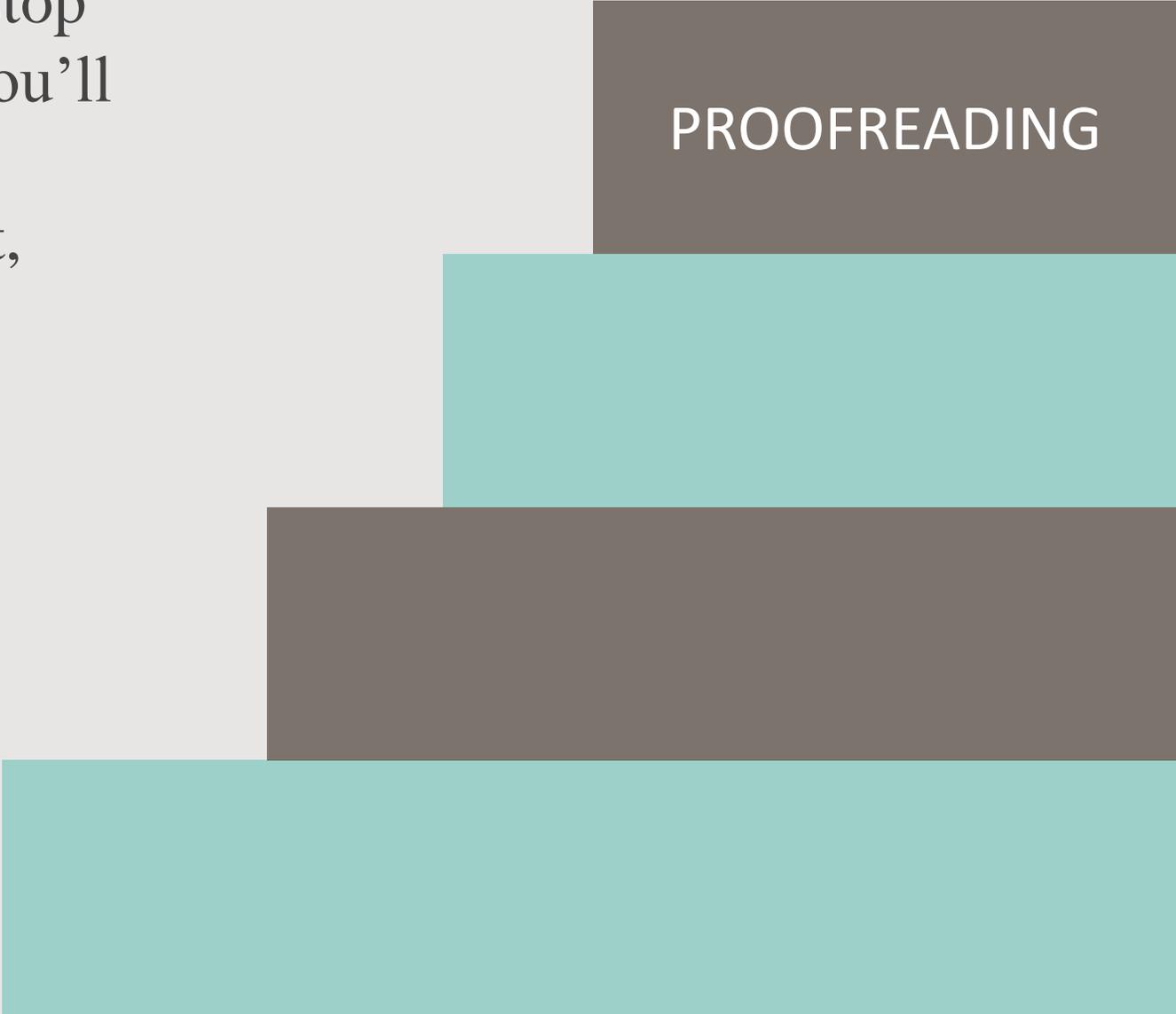
Spelling, punctuation and grammar

Consistency



PROOFREADING

This is the final polish of your novel. There will be no niggling errors to stop readers from enjoying your story. You'll have a book that's ready for self-publishing or submitting to an agent, depending on the route you want to take.



PROOFREADING