

# REVISION CHECKLIST

Check the structure of the story arc.

- Does the story begin in the right place?
- Does it start with a hook, followed quickly by an inciting incident?
- Can you name the turning points?
- Does the middle sag or propel your reader to the climax?
- Does it appear as though the protagonist won't succeed?
- Is the climax exciting enough? Believable?
- Is the resolution complete or does it leave dangling threads?
- Is the end satisfying?
- Is there enough action and conflict?

Check the timeline. Is it clear to the reader?

Check the progression of your protagonist's character arc.

- Is her goal clear?
- Is her motivation clear and believable?
- Are her actions consistent with her motivations?
- Is her weakness or misunderstanding clear in the beginning?
- Does she try and fail and try again throughout the story?
- Does she face her fear and then solve her own problem?
- Does she grow believably?
- Is there enough interior monologue?
- Is she likable? Will the reader pull for her to succeed?

Check the development of minor characters.

- Are they well rounded, if appropriate?
- Are the flat characters flat because that is appropriate?
- Do the character voices sound distinct?

Check the viewpoint. Is it consistent?

Consider the pacing.

- Are the scenes well developed with clear actions, goals, and character turns?
- Are the transitions in and out of scenes smooth?
- Is the action fast-paced?
- Are there appropriate sequels after scenes?
- Is anything slow and/or boring?

Reread the setting descriptions. Are they well rendered with a minimum of description?

Highlight the sections of backstory and review. Is it sprinkled in with a light touch, as needed?

Read the dialogue out loud.

Is it believable and engaging?

Is there too much or too little?

Are there dialogue tags that can be removed?

Are there sufficient action beats to ground the reader and vary the pace?

Read the sentences closely.

Is there "telling" that should be converted to "showing"?

Are the sentence structures varied?

Are the word choices fresh and interesting?

Is the writing clear and effective?

Is the writing lovely?

Proofread every word and punctuation mark.

## RESOURCES

### WEBSITES

12 x 12 Challenge for Picture Book Writers: [www.12x12challenge.com](http://www.12x12challenge.com).

100 Most Frequent Words in Books for Beginning Readers:  
[www.mcrel.org/PDF/Literacy/4006CM\\_100words.pdf](http://www.mcrel.org/PDF/Literacy/4006CM_100words.pdf)

Accelerated Reader Book Find: [www.arbookfind.com](http://www.arbookfind.com)

Dolch Sight Words: <http://www.english-zone.com/reading/dolch.html>

Kidlit411: [www.kidlit411.com](http://www.kidlit411.com).

SCBWI (Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators): [www.scbwi.org](http://www.scbwi.org).

Storystorm Challenge: <https://taralazar.com/storystorm/>

### BOOKS & ARTICLES

Ashman, Linda. *The Nuts and Bolts Guide to Writing Picture Books*. This extensive booklet is available through her website: [www.lindaashman.com](http://www.lindaashman.com).

Dils, Tracey E. *You Can Write Children's Books*. Writer's Digest Books, 1998.

Jones, Amy, editor. *2020 Children's Writer's and Illustrator's Market*. Writer's Digest Books, 2019.

Kole, Mary. *Writing Irresistible Kidlit*. Writer's Digest Books, 2012.

Lamba, Marie. "The Key Differences Between Middle Grade and Young Adult." *Writer's Digest*, August 7, 2014. <https://www.writersdigest.com/online-editor/the-key-differences-between-middle-grade-vs-young-adult>

Shaffer, Sylvie. "New for New Readers: What (Exactly) Is An Easy Reader." *The Horn Book*, May 12, 2019. <https://www.hbook.com/?detailStory=what-exactly-is-an-easy-reader>

Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. *The Book: Essential Guide to Publishing for Children 2020*.