



# FIRST TIME AUTHOR

## CHECKLIST

Inspiration for a story can come from anywhere. I truly believe that finishing a good story, does not always need a checklist.

But, if you are new, have an idea and have not started writing your story yet, or are stuck at a point, this checklist (or portions of it) are meant to help you find a path to completion.

### Setting and Audience

*Being clear on the age group and theme of the story will help with the entire process.*

- ☐ Read similar styled books
- ☐ Decide on target audience
- ☐ What's the theme?
- ☐ Think of character(s') traits
- ☐ Set the story tone, voice



### Story Structure

*Introducing the main character right away? Or setting the scene first? First-person or third-person? Such critical questions will build the story arc right, from the start.*

- ☐ How do you start the story?
- ☐ Plan the conflict point
- ☐ Identify resolution
- ☐ Define the story arc
- ☐ Are you limited in word count?



### Start Writing

*If you haven't already started, start now. What you haven't identified sometimes falls right into place when you let the words flow onto paper.*

*Make mistakes!*

- ☐ Write and finish a first draft
- ☐ If stuck, deliberately try imbalanced characters and strange plot changes
- ☐ Read more, and research visuals
- ☐ Finally, challenge yourself to simplify and cut down



### Revise and Illustrate

*Read, and re-read. Ask family and friends to read. Change what makes sense to change, and leave in what feels right to you. Think of imagery as you now revise.*

- ☐ Read the copy out loud & again after a 1-2 week break
- ☐ Review vocabulary and flow
- ☐ Revise and have it peer-reviewed
- ☐ Build illustration notes

read  
and  
sparkle



You are on your way to connecting young minds with another beautiful story and a whole new world! Don't stop now.

Once your story is complete, check out my launch guide for publishing and promoting your book.