

MY REVISION CHECKLIST

- ☞ Does the opening scene introduce the protagonist and world in an interesting way? Does it set the mood for the book?
- ☞ Do the major plot points (the catalyst, midpoint, climax) have high stakes and plenty of conflict? Can I increase the suspense of these important moments?
- ☞ Is there something unexpected in (almost) every scene?
- ☞ Can exposition-heavy scenes be made more interesting or exciting? Can any information be doled out in other places?
- ☞ Have I foreshadowed any big reveals and plot twists?
- ☞ Do the stakes rise throughout the story, with the most suspenseful moment(s) coming at the climax?
- ☞ Is there a balance of action and reaction scenes?
- ☞ Are all plot threads resolved? No forgotten subplots or characters?
- ☞ Does the ending feel satisfactory? Does it somehow reflect the opening scene, to show how the world or character has changed?
- ☞ Is my protagonist likable? Relatable? Do they have strengths and weaknesses? Both admirable traits and character flaws?
- ☞ Does the protagonist have something to motivate them from the very start?

- ⇒ Does my protagonist grow and change in relation to their biggest character flaw (i.e., is there a complete character arc)?
- ⇒ Is there sufficient cause keeping the protagonist involved in the story? Do they have the choice to just “walk away”? (They shouldn’t be able to!)
- ⇒ Are there satisfactory arcs for other important characters?
- ⇒ Is the romance swoony, with a mix of obstacles keeping them apart, and also moments to show the couple falling in love despite those obstacles?
- ⇒ Is the antagonist interesting and believable, maybe even likable in some way?
- ⇒ Does the world feel tangible and real? Is there a sense of history and culture? Of the world expanding beyond what we see in this story?
- ⇒ Do setting descriptions draw on all five senses?
- ⇒ If this is part of a series, have I hinted at what’s to come?