

The 12 Key Pillars of Novel Construction

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Inspection Checklist #7

Setting with a Purpose

	QUESTION	YOUR ANSWER
QUESTION #1	Have you deliberately chosen a setting/locale for your novel? Why this place and not another? Consider whether another might be more fresh/unique.	
QUESTION #2	For every scene, have you asked: "Is this the best setting I can put my characters in?" Can you think of more original settings for some of your scenes? If so, use them.	
QUESTION #3	What is your main character's connection with the settings in your novel? Can you make the emotions deeper and more meaningful?	
QUESTION #4	What important past events can you come up with that tie your characters to your settings? Can you bring that into your story?	
QUESTION #5	How many "boring" settings do you have in which characters stand or sit around and talk? How many can you change to make the setting more interesting?	
QUESTION #6	In what ways can you change the way your MC feels about the setting by what happens to her in your story?	

	QUESTION	YOUR ANSWER
QUESTION #7	What unusual things can you have your MC notice about the various settings she is in, colored by her mood and what is happening in the story?	
QUESTION #8	Go through your scenes and check: Have you clearly established the weather, time of day, time of year? Does the weather fit the mood or purpose of the scene?	
QUESTION #9	Do you establish your setting right away in every scene and through the POV character's eyes? Check that. Do you give strong sensory details?	
QUESTION #10	Pick one place that has special significance for your MC. What happened there? How does she feel there? Can you put her there in important moments in your story?	
QUESTION #11	Can you create a place/locale in your story that triggers your MC to feel sad? Afraid? Nostalgic? Reflective? Angry? Regretful? Guilty?	
QUESTION #12	Can you come up with a significant moment in the climax and/or ending of your book that shows strong connection between MC and setting?	

Write a one-paragraph summary of your novel highlighting Setting with a Purpose: