

The 12 Key Pillars of Novel Construction

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Inspection Checklist #2 Protagonist with a Goal

	QUESTION(S)	YOUR ANSWER
QUESTION #1	What is your protagonist's clear, visible goal for the book? How will you introduce that in the first ten pages of your novel?	
QUESTION #2	What does your main character (MC) want more than anything else (core need)? What is she willing to do to get it? What can make it more dangerous, more impossible to reach?	
QUESTION #3	What spiritual/emotional goal have you set up for your MC in the beginning of the book? How will she reach that goal by the end (or fail to)?	
QUESTION #4	Why and how is the MC's goal crucial to the overall story? How does it tie in with your concept and kicker?	
QUESTION #5	How does the MC's goal reveal the theme of the novel? Explain. What take-home message/emotional response do you want your readers to have after the goal is reached at the end?	
QUESTION #6	How will reaching this goal change your protagonist? How can you make the change much bigger and affect more characters?	

	QUESTION	YOUR ANSWER
QUESTION #7	What is the biggest obstacle preventing your MC from reaching her goal? How can you make it much worse? How can it push her into despair and hopelessness before the climax?	
QUESTION #8	In what ways is your MC unique and fascinating, and yet very much like anyone else? What great flaw does he have that will hinder his reaching his goal?	
QUESTION #9	What deep secret is your MC keeping, and how will this secret interfere or sabotage your MC as he strives toward the goal?	
QUESTION #10	What are your MC's greatest strengths and weaknesses? What will readers love and hate about her? Can you find a way for her weakness to become her strength?	
QUESTION #11	How will you show something vulnerable, heroic, and intriguing about your MC in the first scene? Show her gift and handicap.	
QUESTION #12	What very important lesson does your character learn by the end of the book that changes her view of herself and the world and that ties in with your core concept? Write this in one sentence.	

Write a one-paragraph summary of your novel highlighting your protagonist with a goal: