

First-Page Checklist

- ___ Opening Hook: Clever writing and image that grabs the reader
- ___ Introduction of main character in first few lines
- ___ Starting the story in the middle of something that's happened (or happening)
- ___ A nod to setting; avoid excessive exposition or narrative
- ___ A catalyst, inciting incident, or complication introduced for your character
- ___ A hint at character's immediate intentions
- ___ A hint at character's hidden need, desire, goal, dream, fear
- ___ Unique voice/writing style
- ___ A tone set for the entire book
- ___ A glimpse at character's personal history, personality—shed light on motivation
- ___ Hint of character's initial plot goal
- ___ A course of action/decision implied: introduction of high stakes/dramatic tension
- ___ Good Pacing: jump right into present action. No backstory

Think of including:

- one characteristic to reveal that makes your character heroic and vulnerable
- one element of mystery, something hinted at that raises curiosity
- one element out of the ordinary that catches readers' attention
- concise, catchy dialogue (if in the first scene) that is not boring or predictable
- a way to hint at your theme, if you have one