

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
- ___ Setting the tone for the entire book
- ___ A glimpse at character's personal history, personality—shed light on motivation
- ___ Introduction of plot goal
- ___ A course of action/decision implied: introduction of high stakes/dramatic tension
- ___ Pacing: jump right into present action. No back story

Think of:

- 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, unusual, that makes your book different/stand out
- Concise, catchy dialogue (if there) that is not boring or predictable
- A way to hint at your theme, if you have one