



LIFE OF A STORYTELLER

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**The Checklist**

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**WRITING  
YOUR FIRST  
NOVEL**



[www.lifeofastoryteller.com](http://www.lifeofastoryteller.com)

# THE CHECKLIST

## WHERE TO BEGIN

- Start to write down ideas in a notebook.
- Decide what your story topic is.
- Write down what the motives of your novel are.
- Address the theme and motifs.
- Identify your target audience.
- Decide whether to go traditional or self-publishing.
- Decide what genre your novel falls under.
- Identify what POV (point of view) you will be writing in.
- Decide on a word count for your novel.
- Identify your main characters.
- Identify your secondary characters.
- Identify your tertiary characters.
- Complete LOAS 'The Epic Guide to Character Questionnaire for all of your main characters.
- Establish where your story takes place.
- Identify the story arc.

# THE CHECKLIST

## WHERE TO BEGIN

- Write a novel summary.
- Write a novel outline.

## THE FIRST SENTENCE

- Identify which of the six components you want to use in your opening sentence.
- Write an opening line for each of the six types.
- Practice until you get the right one.

## THE FIRST CHAPTER

- Identify your story's promise.
- Decide on the length of your first chapter.
- Decide on the amount of scenes in your first chapter.

# THE CHECKLIST

## THE FIRST CHAPTER

- Decide on the number of POV's in your first chapter.
- Decide on how you are going to excite your reader with your ending.
- Write the first chapter.

## TOOLS AND TIPS TO CONT.

- Blog about your writing or start a diary.
- Join at least 5 writing communities on Facebook.
- (Optional) Join NaNoWriMo
- Place your novel outline where it will always be accessible.
- Aim to read 1-3 books a month.
- Create a playlist.
- Believe in yourself.