

# The 12 Key Pillars of Novel Construction

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## Inspection Checklist #1

### Concept with a Kicker

	QUESTION(S)	YOUR ANSWER
QUESTION #1	What is your great idea for a novel? What is the kicker that twists an ordinary idea into something unique, original, and compelling? Try to explain in one clear sentence.	
QUESTION #2	In what ways is your kicker tied in with your protagonist's core need? Greatest fear? Deepest desire? How does his/her goal embody the concept?	
QUESTION #3	What one element or focus makes you excited about your concept? Why will it also excite readers? Can you make it into something controversial?	
QUESTION #4	Picture a movie poster for your novel. What one key scene is pictured on it that embodies your concept and kicker? Describe it.	
QUESTION #5	What is the main gut response/emotional reaction you want your concept to evoke? Explain. Think of ways to tweak your concept so the reaction will be stronger.	
QUESTION #6	What possibilities does the kicker add to your concept in the way of higher stakes and deeper conflict?	

	QUESTION	YOUR ANSWER
QUESTION #7	What themes, issues, or volatile topics does your kicker involve? Think of at least three and write ways you can add them to the story line.	
QUESTION #8	What iconic scene can you write in your novel that will showcase the essence of your concept and kicker? How can you make it even bigger, more intense?	
QUESTION #9	State your concept with your kicker in one sentence. How can you add in the central conflict and stakes? Can you tweak your kicker so the stakes are even higher?	
QUESTION #10	What happens (or will happen) in the climax of the novel that will show why your concept and kicker are unique and compelling?	
QUESTION #11	What key way will your protagonist change by the end of the novel that ties in specifically with your concept and kicker?	
QUESTION #12	Write down your novel's premise or basic plot idea. Ignoring the kicker you came up with, what three other, different kickers can you think of? Is one better than your initial idea? If so, use it instead.	

**Write a one-paragraph summary of your novel highlighting your concept with a kicker:**