

CREATIVE WRITING TRAINING · LESSON 1

Checklist before the first page

Before the First Page: How to Think Through a Book Before You Start Writing

Check the boxes on screen or print this page and use it as a worksheet.

- ☐ Who drives the story?
- ☐ What does this person want?
- ☐ Why do they want it?
- ☐ What stands in their way?
- ☐ What might they lose?
- ☐ What is their wound or contradiction?
- ☐ What transformation might occur?
- ☐ What is the central question?
- ☐ What experience does the book promise?
- ☐ Why does this story need to happen in this world?
- ☐ What image represents the heart of the work?
- ☐ What difficult decision is the protagonist likely to face?