



**Shutta Crum: July 2004**

**Revision Checklist:**

1. STUFF HAS TO HAPPEN! & SHOW DON'T TELL.
2. Who are the bad guys? What is the conflict?
3. Why does the story start here?
4. What is the pivotal event toward which all major scenes lead?
5. Are events unavoidable as they unfold?
6. Does the pacing and rhythm vary throughout?
7. Are the character voices consistent?
8. Why do secondary characters behave as they do?
9. Is there a strong sense of time, and place?
10. Is the vernacular, understandable & toned down?
11. Is there growth on the part of the main character?
12. Do adult figures act as adults do?
13. Subplots—too many? Too few?
14. Is there humor throughout—as appropriate to the topic?
15. Is the exposition poetic or plodding?
16. Have I read it out loud/heard it read aloud?
17. Is there a consistent point of view? Is the perspective appropriate to the speaker? Is it supposed to vary?
18. Is the tense consistent?
19. Have I used strong verbs—power revised?
20. Have I cut any unnecessary characters, scenes, adverbs, adjectives?
21. Are pronouns specific?

## **5 Keys of Good writing:** (From *Writer's Digest Magazine*)

1. Economy
2. Precision
3. Action
4. Music
5. Personality

## **Chapter Turners:** (From *Writer's Digest Magazine*)

1. Keep secrets
2. Make plans and vows
3. Announce arrivals
4. Schedule departures
5. Reverse expectations
6. Ask a question
7. Uncover a new problem

## **Major Structure:**

1. Keep the punch for the ends of things—(line), paragraph, and story
2. Use a hook at the beginning
3. Keep a little “fillip” for a teaser at the tail