

# The 12 Key Pillars of Novel Construction

Copyright © 2014 C. S. Lakin

## Inspection Checklist #5

### Plots and Subplots in a String of Scenes

	QUESTION	YOUR ANSWER
QUESTION #1	Take the time to look at each of your scenes. Does each scene have a beginning, middle, high point and end? If not, rewrite so they do or consider deleting.	
QUESTION #2	Does every scene advance your main plot by revealing new, important info about character or the plot or by adding complications or obstacles for your main character (MC) in reaching her goal?	
QUESTION #3	Does every scene have an opening hook that grabs the reader? A great last line that leaves the scene hanging or wraps it up just right?	
QUESTION #4	Does every scene clearly set up where, when, and who is the focus of the scene right away? Show how much time has passed since the last scene? Establish and stay w/ the POV character?	
QUESTION #5	Does every scene start in the middle of something happening? Have you deleted all the boring, nonessential action and words that make your scene drag?	
QUESTION #6	Sum up your main plot in one sentence. Does it clearly show your protagonist's visible goal for the novel as well as the central conflict? Rework it until your plot objective is clear.	

	QUESTION	YOUR ANSWER
QUESTION #7	What are the two main subplots for your protagonist (Plot B and C)? In what ways do they complicate the main plot? Enrich your themes?	
QUESTION #8	What are the subplots you've created for two of your secondary characters? In what ways do they complicate the main plot and showcase your theme? Help or hinder your MC?	
QUESTION #9	List three ways your subplots bring out your themes. Can you find a way in five scenes to bring out the theme even more?	
QUESTION #10	Do you have a subplot that involves a secondary character that clashes with your protagonist's goal? Can you make it bigger, worse?	
QUESTION #11	What minor subplot do you have for your protagonist? Can you find ways in those scenes to aggravate the situation so that it pushes your MC over the edge?	
QUESTION #12	Find your three weakest scenes in which not much is happening. Can you salvage these by infusing a twist, an important high moment, a revelation or insight for your character?	

Write a one-paragraph summary of your novel highlighting Plots and Subplots in a String of Scenes: