

The 12 Key Pillars of Novel Construction

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Inspection Checklist #6

Secondary Characters with Their Own Needs

	QUESTION	YOUR ANSWER
QUESTION #1	Do you have at least 3 supporting characters (SC) that play key roles and are there to either help or hinder the main character (MC)? List how they do this in the story.	
QUESTION #2	List 3 main SCs. List each of their core needs, goals, greatest fear, deepest desire. How do these create conflict or support for your MC?	
QUESTION #3	Can you think of a key scene to put in your novel in which your most supportive SC opposes your MC regarding her goal? Put it in.	
QUESTION #4	Who is the primary reflection character/ally for your protagonist? What key moment is in your novel that showcases his support?	
QUESTION #5	Who is the primary antagonist in your novel? What key moment showcases the big conflict and issue between them?	
QUESTION #6	What are 3 ways or moments in which you show your antagonist(s) as human, vulnerable, almost sympathetic?	

	QUESTION	YOUR ANSWER
QUESTION #7	In what big way do your SCs create conflict with high stakes for your MC? Can you make the conflict and stakes bigger?	
QUESTION #8	What is the big moment in which the most supportive SC helps the MC change and/or reach her visible goal in or right before the climax?	
QUESTION #9	What A and B plots and subplots have you developed for each of your main SCs? How do they help/hinder the MC's goal?	
QUESTION #10	In what ways do you use the SCs to bring out the themes in your novel? Can you come up with at least 3 key scenes?	
QUESTION #11	Do you have a romance character and element in your novel? List 6-12 scenes (1 line) that show how the relationship gradually develops with conflict and connection.	
QUESTION #12	How does the romance character act as a reflection for your MC? Lists 3 key moments when he/she helps the MC see his/her true self.	

Write a one-paragraph summary of your novel highlighting Secondary Characters with Their Own Needs: