

The 12 Key Pillars of Novel Construction

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Inspection Checklist #12

Motifs for Cohesion and Depth

	QUESTION	YOUR ANSWER
QUESTION #1	What are 3-4 motifs you can come up with for your novel that will tie in with your theme? Describe them.	
QUESTION #2	Can you think of an object/item from your protagonist's past that is emotionally charged? Use that for a motif repeatedly.	
QUESTION #3	Can you think of a symbol that has some universal meaning (or common) that can become significant for your protagonist? Put it in.	
QUESTION #4	Have you created an image system for your novel? Describe it, and include words, colors, phrases, objects. Bring them into your story.	
QUESTION #5	Picture your movie poster for your novel. What important objects and setting stand out? Create motifs from those.	
QUESTION #6	Think of the main emotion or trait your protagonist experiences (grief, forgiveness, etc.) Can you find a symbol/object for this to use in your novel?	

	QUESTION	YOUR ANSWER
QUESTION #7	Can you think of a phrase or sentences an ally character can say to your protagonist that can be repeated as motif?	
QUESTION #8	Consider the title of your novel. Can you find a way to bring a motif into the title? Tie in with your themes?	
QUESTION #9	Think of the main themes of your story, then freewrite word associations of emotions, objects, images. Can you use some of these for motifs in your story?	
QUESTION #10	What comforts your character the most? A song, phrase, object, person? Find a way to use as a motif in your book.	
QUESTION #11	Pick the three most important scenes in your novel for your protagonist. Can you insert the same motif into those three scenes somehow?	
QUESTION #12	When your novel is done, what motif can you bring out in both the first scene and the last (with your protagonist) that features your main motif?	

Write a one-paragraph summary of your novel highlighting Motifs for Cohesion and Depth: