

# Subplots

*Developing the Merrier*

A sure-fire way to guarantee that there is enough action in your novel to fill the pages, meet your word count, and keep your readers reading is to add subplots starring your supporting characters. Just like your protagonist and antagonist, your supporting characters have dreams, fears, and weaknesses of their own.

If your protagonist wants to travel to Chicago for the freestyle hip-hop competitions to fulfill his dream of becoming a performer, perhaps his best friend wants to become a chef and is coming along for Chicago's world-famous, five-star restaurants.

If you may have more than one supporting character, complete the following for each of them on separate sheets of paper:

1. **Supporting character's name:**
2. **More than anything in the world he or she wants...**
3. **But he or she is afraid of...**
4. **And his or her greatest weakness is...**

Now that you know about your supporting characters' hopes and fears, you can add subplots to your own story. Anytime you feel stuck or bored with your protagonist, go see what your supporting characters are up to. You can totally switch gears and follow their journeys whenever you'd like. Maybe they'll run into your protagonist, maybe they won't. No matter what happens, we promise that all kinds of unexpected things will unfold each time you explore a subplot.