

20 Questions to Strengthen Your Novel or Memoir with Rachel Weaver

1. What is the MC actively trying to achieve throughout the book? ^{internal journey} _{external journey}
2. What's in his/her/their way of achieving the main objective?
3. What's at stake if the main objective cannot be achieved?
4. What internal conflict in your main character makes this particular main objective particularly hard to achieve?
5. What belief system does your MC live according to at the beginning of the book that the events of the book challenges and eventually changes?
6. What additional setbacks can you include to make the main objective even harder to achieve?
7. Whose story is this? Have you chosen the correct main character? Is there another character who is harder hit by the events in the story? Do you need multiple POVs to tell this story?
8. What would make the main character more desperate?
9. What do all the secondary characters want?
10. When is your main character vulnerable?
11. Are there enough situation changes and are they evenly placed?
12. Are you holding onto any scenes just because you love them even though they do not move the plot forward?
13. Have you created for your main character a series of true dilemmas?
14. What is the take-away message of your book? What will your reader be left with when it's all over? Is it what you want it to be?
15. What big life question/obsession of yours is present in your book?
16. Where can you tighten up dialogue to better reflect the emotional state/desires of the characters?
17. Are you controlling narrative distance?
18. Where is backstory stalling out the front story and dropping the tension?
19. Where do you have big blocks of narration that could be pushed into scene?
20. Are you avoiding major rewrites because you are antsy to get to the fame and fortune part of writing a book?

David Rose

Rachel Weaver - Willa Cather Award
- How to keep reader from being bored.

