



Multiple Plot Lines

A story with multiple plot lines typically has one main plot, and at least one subplot. A subplot is a supporting side story that deepens or enhances the reader's experience of the main story in some way, for instance, by deepening the thematic significance of the novel, or by making the story more suspenseful. There are four main types of subplots:

- A **mirror subplot** features a conflict similar to what is going on in the main story, on a smaller scale. A mirror subplot can be used for character development, to deepen the theme, or to show your protagonist how to solve their main conflict.
- In a **contrasting subplot**, a secondary character facing circumstances similar to your protagonist handles their conflict differently and achieves very different results.
- In a **complicating subplot**, a secondary character with their own story goal makes things harder for the protagonist in the main story.
- A **romantic subplot** includes a love interest for the protagonist, and the development of that relationship complicates the main plot.

What type of subplot would add the most to your novel? Why?
