

“Does Your Novel Have Enough Tension?” Checklist

This is an extra resource to go along with the original article:

[*Tension! What It Is & How to Develop It In Your Novel*](#)

- ☐ Is there internal conflict with the protagonist character?
- ☐ Is there external conflict with the protagonist and an outside force?
- ☐ Is there something left “unsaid” between the characters in a scene?
- ☐ Do the characters in each scene have well-defined motivations that the reader knows?
- ☐ Does the reader know what is at stake for every main character in the scene?
- ☐ Is something preventing the protagonist from succeeding?
- ☐ Does the reader know more than the protagonist?
- ☐ Is there a sense of anticipation in every scene?
- ☐ Does anticipation build throughout the story, leading to the climax?