

The Second Draft

The *rough draft* is the bones of my story. The second draft is all about adding all the good stuff. Making the characters come alive. Making their world real. This draft takes me the longest.

What Not to Worry About

- Comma conundrums
- Words repeated too often
- Phrases or actions that don't feel perfect

What to ADD IN

The blood vessels

What is the life force of the novel? Intrigue? Romance? Anger? Action-adventure, mysticism, magical? Surreal? Historic? Fantastical. Philosophical? Political?

Ears

What do the main characters listen to? Their heart? Others?

Auditory imagery: What do they hear? Listen to?

Eyes

How do they see the world? What biased lens do they look through? Jaded? Rose-colored? Anger? Mature? Immature? Are they far seeing? Or short sighted?

Visual Imagery: What do they see?

Brain

What are they smart at ? What are they dumb or lack experience or judgment at?

Nose

What do they have a nose for? Computers, drama, music, gossip?

Olfactory Imagery: What does their world smell like? Is it relevant to the scene or plot?

Mouth

What is their unique voice? Dialogue reveals gender, education level, region or dialect, profession, age, maturity, personality, and emotion.

Do they have a voice in society? Is their voice maligned, misunderstood, disregarded, or respected? Does their voice matter?

Gustatory Imagery: What do they taste? How do they respond to the taste?

Heart

Who or what does their heart belong ? What makes their heart beat faster? Do they have a heart or are they heartless? What breaks their heart?

Soul

What fills their soul? Crushes their soul?

The soul is perceived as something deeper, more at odds with ourselves and more engrained with our very being.

Muscles

What are their needs and desires? What gives them strength to move forward to face challenges?

Fat

Personality quirks or ticks

Skin

Outward appearance.

Tactile Imagery: What do they feel?

What to Look for

- plot holes
- lack of flow

What I Do

- switch chapters around
- add a new chapter
- create a hook after each chapter
- focus on the tone/voice of the novel
- pacing