Creating a Strong Plot

Here is a list of questions to ask yourself and tips to help create a strong and well-developed plot.

The plot of your story is THE most important part. You don't want a debacle like the last season of Game of Thrones- I will forever be disappointed in the ending.

1. Here is a list of things every great plotline has!
   a. It creates curiosity and raises questions the reader wants answered
   b. Shows cohesion – every chapter should make sense together as a whole
   c. They obey their own internal logic. Your story doesn't have to be based in our reality, but the stories reality needs to remain constant.
   d. Avoids clichés and creates surprise. There are some clichés that work ("The Chosen One" character type, or the ever repeated rom-com storyline) so if you're going for that, that's okay! Just throw your own twists in there to really surprise your reader! Or steer clear of them entirely and be 100% original, it's up to you!
   e. Gives readers something to be invested in. Your reader is taking time out of their life to read your book! That's a big deal! Give them a story that they can't put down because they care about what is happening.
2. Create interesting subplots! Subplots should always:
   a. Help explain and/or develop crucial plot points, they can heighten tensions and create complications, they can deepen our understanding of central characters
   b. Be relevant to the main narrative – they should be related to the story in some way, you don't want to confuse the reader with a random storyline that doesn't tie in at all.
3. Have every character have their own motivation for their actions and their own goal. Then make them pursue it.
   a. This is for every single character. Even if they are just a taxi driver. What does that taxi driver want? They want to finish their shift with minimal talking to their passengers. How would they then react to your main character who is a chatter box? It helps you to create interesting moments throughout your story.
4. Plot each scene's purpose before you start. This doesn't need to be super specific; it can just be one line in the planning stage that explains its purpose. A couple questions you can ask yourself:
   a. Why is this scene relevant to the wider story?
   b. What does it achieve for your main story arc (e.g. "This scene is when the protagonist hits a snag in their plan")?
   c. This helps you quickly identify a scene that is not important to the story – if you can't justify how it's helping the story progress, its obviously not that important.