Making a Scene-Crafting a Powerful Story One Scene at a Time
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Functions of a Scene

The scene is a ______________ of all the parts of fiction.

• Characters
  —must be ______________ and ______________
  —must undergo __________________

• Point of View

• Action
  —must feel like it is unfolding in ______________________

• Dialogue

• New Plot Information
  —must ___________ your story and ___________ characters

• Conflict and Drama
  — _______________ your characters to reveal their personalities

\[
\text{conflict} = \text{action} \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \text{suspense} = \text{the unknown}
\]

\[
\begin{array}{ll}
\text{talking} & \text{arguing} \\
\text{fighting} & \text{chasing} \\
\text{teasing} & \text{demanding} \\
\text{tricking} & \text{stealing} \\
\text{competing} & \text{hiding}
\end{array}
\]

• Setting
  —calls on all the ______________

• Narrative Summary or Exposition
  —comprehensive _______________ or ______________ of an idea

Length of Scenes

Long Scenes: More than 15 pages
  — Slow down the ______________. Allow reader to digest what has happened, and to build new _______________ and ______________.
  — Include a lot of ___________ action in a given scene (fights, chases, explosions)
  — Add dialogue that needs to run long in order to feel __________________
Short Scenes: 10 or fewer pages

— Differentiate one character from another
— Pick up the ____________ right after a long scene
— Leave the reader __________ for more or __________ with suspense
— Include multiple scenes within a chapter
— Create a sense of ____________ by dropping bits of information one by one

### Beginning of Scene:

Start by asking:

- Where are my characters in the _____________________?
- Where did I leave them, and what are they ______________________?
- What is the most important piece of ____________________ that needs to be revealed in this scene?

### Four Types of Beginnings

1. ________________ - Before starting, you’ll want to establish Character Intention
   • Most Important ______________________
   • When Character will (1) __________ intention or (2) encounter ______________
   • Whether intention makes sense to your ________________
   • Who will ______________ your characters achieve their goal
   • Who will ______________ them

2. ________________
   • Get straight to the action. Don’t __________ your ________________
   • Hook the reader with big or surprising _________________.
   • Be sure the action is ________________ to your character.
   • ________________ first, ________________ later

3. ________________
   • to ________________ ________________
   • when information needs to be given ________________ an action
   • when a character’s thoughts or intentions ______________ be revealed in action

4. ________________
   • Use ________________ details
   • Allow scenery to set the ________________ of the scene
   • Use scenery to reflect a character’s ________________
• Show the __________________ of the setting on the character

Middle of the Scene

Four ways to “Up the Ante” to complicate the characters’ lives:

1. The Withhold
   • Dangle objects of __________ just out of reach (emotions, information, objects)
   • The longer you withhold, the more ________________ you build

2. The Danger Element
   • __________________ or __________________
   • How your character reacts to danger reveals his true ________________
   Example: shy character suddenly shows bravery/Macho character terrified when life at stake

3. Scene Stealer
   • Delaying a scene the reader ________________ is coming

4. The Unexpected Revelation
   • Can come with devastating effect or ________________ and ________________

End of Scene: (6 types)

Zoom-in -to bring the reader ________________ ________________

➢ Character Summarizes the scene in interior monologue or simple dialogue.
   Lets reader know of character’s ________________ pulse

➢ Revelatory Dialogue or Action
   Builds ________________ for the next scene

➢ Cliffhanger adds suspense. Do Not Overuse.
   -Leave a character in grave ________________
   -cut an ________________ short
   -change character’s perception of ________________
Zoom-out - to give a ___________________ perspective

- Visual Descriptions
  - leaves physical ___________________ on reader to take into next scene

- Philosophical Musings
  - ___________________ back on events of a scene or scenes
  - should always be in the POV of the _______________ character of the scene

Conclusive Ending Purpose is to:

- ___________________ something that happened or tie up a _________ point
- ___________________ ___________________ that have been posed throughout the scene or story
  Examples: unmask murderers, reveal blood tests, lay down jail sentences

Each ending you choose must fit the scene’s ___________________,
  the ___________________, and the ___________________.

Using colorful, vivid and exact words in your scenes.

The truck was speeding down the road when an animal fell out of a tree and crashed through the front window.