**Six Dramatic Purposes of Scenes**

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|  Every scene in a good play is created to achieve certain ends. Moreover the dramatist may have in mind one or more definite purposes for a scene. A reader must consider how each particular scene affects his/her attitude to the whole play. |
| Character | * A scene may reveal or develop character. As a general rule, early scenes will reveal character traits that a later scene may develop or change.
* It may present a dramatic contrast or foil in character.
* It may establish relationships between characters or show these relationships changing.
* It may direct the sympathies of the audience towards or withdraw them from a particular character.
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| **Setting** | * A scene may give background information.
* It may provide a transition of time and/or place.
* It may present a contrast of mood.
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| **Mood** | * A scene may suggest or convey a mood that contributes to the action or conflict.
* It may present a contrast in mood.
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| **Plot** | * A scene may advance the plot.
* It may create suspense.
* It may foreshadow coming events.
* It may give information about events occurring offstage (or off camera) that cannot be shown onstage (or on camera) or that the dramatist (or director) does not want seen.
* It may create dramatic irony.
* It may present a contrast in action.
* It may point the way for the scene following.
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| **Theme** | * A scene may contribute to the main idea(s) in the play. Examples, analogies, illustrations, demonstrations, explanations or analyses are all techniques that may be used to develop theme.
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| **Audience****Reaction** | * A scene may provide pathos (arouse compassion in the audience).
* It may afford a relief of tension (see suspense in plot above).
* It may provide comedy.
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