**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. |
| **Setting** | * A scene may give background information. * It may provide a transition of time and/or place. * It may present a contrast of mood. |
| **Mood** | * A scene may suggest or convey a mood that contributes to the action or conflict. * It may present a contrast in mood. |
| **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. |
| **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. |
| **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. |