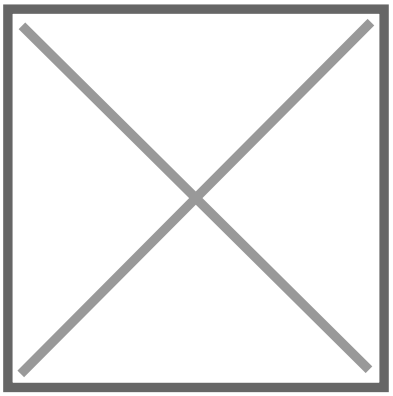

Tips About Scenes

Description

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Todayâ??s blog is Tips About Scenes. At Basic Authors Training we consider scene creation a very important skill. So important that we have included instructions in using scenes in our course.

There are three parts to Scenes.

These are Beginning, Middle, and Ending. The Beginning scene gets it started. While you can move the parts around, it is usually what its name implies, the Beginning. The Beginning Scene starts at the beginning of the story, or chapter. That sounds obvious, but there are exceptions.

When you begin your scene, you want the readerâ??s attention to be focused on whatever is happening. This usually calls for some action or riveting development.

One of the great opening lines to a story and its first scene spoke of a man on an airplane. In that first sentence it said that in 5 minutes he would be dead.

It wasnâ??t action, but it was certainly potent! It instantly grabbed the readerâ??s attention. The action soon followed, and that opening line came true. Which brings up a truth. If the reader is informed something is going to happen, then that promise must be fulfilled!

The Beginning Scene Acts as the Start or Transition.

That is what gives it such importance. Here the reader is given just enough information that he or she is involved. They are fed information and the result is they continue reading, eager for more information.

It is also here where the plot is usually introduced along with the main character. In the book I referenced above, the character introduced died before the chapter was concluded. That is all right. Sometimes the primary character or antagonist is not introduced until later. But the plot

finds its beginning quickly.

The Middle Scene is Often Where Most of the Action takes Place.

For that reason, it is often the longest scene. There you have action, dialogue, and plot development. Another factor appearing are transition points. These are the beginning and ending of the Middle Scene, enabling the story to flow smoothly.

Middle scenes can also be used to fill out or build up your characters. This can occur in all three types of scenes, but the Middle provides the best opportunity.

The Ending Scene is the Closing

Somewhat obvious, but it needed to be said. Except that the Ending Scene is not always the ending of the scene. In advanced writing, you can start from the end.

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In my book, *World of Joseph*, I began the story with Joseph being grabbed and taken to a dry well within the first two sentences. This event actually happened later in the chapter as an ending scene. I rarely use that technique, but in this case the story would capture attention immediately.

Aside from closing the scene, it often sets up the transition to another Beginning scene. Remember that a chapter is made up of multiple scenes. I have used the titles Beginning Scene, Middle Scene, and Ending Scene, but I could have used Parts instead of scene for the simple reason that these three actually form one complete scene.

The reason for using the word scene is because each part could stand alone, but instead were part of the whole. For the purposes of this blog, I will continue to identify them as scenes. Another way to think of them is that they are scenes within a scene.

Chapters Use the Same Formula as Scenes.

Not only chapters, but the book itself has a beginning, middle, and ending. We are not going to spend time on the book division here, except to point out this similarity to scenes.

As pointed out earlier, chapters contain scenes. Theoretically, there could be just three scenes or parts of a scene or chapter. But it is more often true that there are multiple scenes.

Interestingly, the chapters have a beginning, middle, and ending. In the case of chapters, it is a bit more rigid as to placement. This string of scenes tells a story that is connected by plot, characters, action, and dialogue. And to be successful, the story must have smooth transitions, and remain true to the plot.

On the other hand, it is not necessary to have all scenes or parts within the chapter have completed endings. By this I mean, you can delay the completion if it fits better at the end of the

book. For instance, in the opening chapters you have a problem occur and maybe identified, but the resolution takes place in the last chapter. You see this often in mysteries.

But by the end of the book, all problems, and situations must be resolved in some manner.

Therefore, treat each scene as an integral part of your story. No matter how minor it may seem, it plays a part. If it doesnâ??t fit within the plot, then it should be removed. You donâ??t want your reader to be confused, and I might add they will notice any discrepancies.

More on this subject in Tips About Scenes part 2.

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