

Scene Checklist

In a scene, something changes. Before every scene, note goal, conflict and outcome. After writing, compare whether the scene really ends that way.

Before writing

Scene

Point of view

Through whose eyes do we experience the scene? Usually it is the character with the most at stake.

Goal

What does the viewpoint character want to achieve in this scene? Concrete and short-term.

Conflict

What or who stands in the way of the goal?

Outcome

How does the scene end, and what has changed? Often: "Yes, but ..." or "No, and furthermore ...".

Stakes

What does the character lose if they fail?

Sequel

The character processes what has happened, weighs the options and makes a decision that becomes the goal of the next scene.

After writing

- ☐ Goal, conflict and outcome put into one sentence each
- ☐ Came in late: close to the point where the conflict becomes noticeable, not with the journey there or the breakfast before
- ☐ The resistance grows: a first attempt, a countermove, a second attempt with higher stakes
- ☐ Got out early: the scene ends as soon as the outcome is settled
- ☐ At the end, the character knows, has or wants something they did not know, have or want at the start
- ☐ The last line is chosen deliberately