

## *What's in a Scene?*

### **The Basics of Scene Writing**

All stories have a **beginning** (inciting incident), **middle** (rising action/climax), and **end** (falling action/resolution).

**Scenes**—the building blocks of stories—behave the same way.

**The beginning of a scene starts in the middle of the action and sucks the reader in.**

What is the main character's goal in this scene? How do they plan to get it?

**The middle of the scene creates complications for the character.**

A scene must have conflict. What are the things that get in the way of the character's goals?

**The end of the scene leaves the reader wanting more.**

A scene's job is to move the main character closer to (or farther away from) their ultimate goal. But they shouldn't reach their ultimate goal until the very end of the story. In the meantime, end each scene in a way that leaves the reader wondering will happen next.

#### **A Writing Prompt:**

Write a scene in which two people are talking to each other on either side of a bathroom door.

#### Things to think about:

- Where do you start the scene?
- What do the characters want? What are their goals? (This can be implicit—obvious—or it can be implied through the characters' actions.)
- What is keeping the characters from getting what they want? What is the conflict or problem?
- Make sure to end the scene without resolving the problem.

Have fun and save what you wrote!