



WHAT IS A SCENE?



SCENES:

- Are the basic building blocks of a story
- Cover a short period of time
- Advance the story, and the conflict, forward.



WHAT MAKES A SCENE?

Scenes:

- Have conflict—opposing wants and needs
- Have a beginning, middle, and end
- Are grounded in a specific time and place
- May include dialogue
- Feature details that can be perceived by the five senses (sight, hearing, taste, smell and touch)
- Have consequences for the overall story

SCENES

VS.

SUMMARIES

- Scenes deal with a short period of time
- Captures events in “real time”
- Offer a play-by-play of actions to **show** the reader what’s going on

For example:

Alice stooped to scratch the puppy between the ears. The puppy nipped at her wrist.

“What’s her name?” she asked.

“His name is Milo.” The owner scowled down at Alice.

- Cover a longer period of time
- Condense time to move through events more quickly
- Provide less details
- **Tell** the reader what happened

For example:

Alice pet a dog on her way to the store.