

# Scene Builder Worksheet

*A structured guide to crafting engaging and meaningful scenes*

## BLANK TEMPLATE

### SCENE BASICS

Story/Novel Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Scene Title/Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

POV Character: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### SCENE GOAL

**Purpose:** *What is this scene trying to accomplish in your story?*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Story Function:** *Check all that apply*

- Advances the plot
- Develops character(s)
- Provides necessary information/backstory
- Establishes setting or world-building
- Creates/builds tension
- Resolves a conflict
- Foreshadows future events
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**What changes by the end of this scene?** *Character, relationship, plot, etc.*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## CHARACTERS PRESENT

### Main Character in Scene:

- Name: \_\_\_\_\_
- Goal in scene: \_\_\_\_\_
- Obstacle: \_\_\_\_\_
- Emotional state at start: \_\_\_\_\_
- Emotional state at end: \_\_\_\_\_

### Supporting Character 1:

- Name: \_\_\_\_\_
- Role in scene: \_\_\_\_\_
- Relationship to main character: \_\_\_\_\_
- Goal/motivation: \_\_\_\_\_

### Supporting Character 2:

- Name: \_\_\_\_\_
- Role in scene: \_\_\_\_\_
- Relationship to main character: \_\_\_\_\_
- Goal/motivation: \_\_\_\_\_

### Other characters present (if any):

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## CONFLICT & TENSION

### Main Conflict Type: *Check one*

- Character vs. Character
- Character vs. Self
- Character vs. Nature/Environment
- Character vs. Society
- Character vs. Technology
- Character vs. Supernatural
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Specific Conflict:** *What exactly is at stake or in opposition in this scene?*

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**Sources of Tension:** *What creates unease, anticipation, or friction?*

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**Obstacles & Complications:** *What makes the scene goal difficult to achieve?*

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**EMOTIONS & MOOD**

**Emotional Journey:** *How do emotions shift during the scene?*

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**Mood/Atmosphere:** *What feeling should permeate the scene?*

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**Reader Response:** *What do you want readers to feel?*

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**Sensory Details to Include:** *To help convey the mood*

- Sights: \_\_\_\_\_
- Sounds: \_\_\_\_\_
- Smells: \_\_\_\_\_
- Tastes: \_\_\_\_\_
- Textures/physical sensations: \_\_\_\_\_

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**KEY DIALOGUE & ACTIONS**

**Essential Dialogue Points:** *What must be said?*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**What remains unsaid/subtext:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Critical Actions/Gestures:** *Important movements, reactions, or events*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Turning Point:** *The moment everything shifts*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **SETTING DETAILS**

**Location:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Time of Day:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Weather/Environment:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Important Objects/Props:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Setting Relevance:** *How does the setting affect the scene?*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Movement through Space:** *How do characters interact with environment?*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **CLIFFHANGER/RESOLUTION**

**Scene Ending Type:** *Check one*

- Cliffhanger/Hook
- Partial Resolution
- Complete Resolution
- Revelation/Discovery
- Decision/Choice Point
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Final Moment:** *The last image, dialogue, or action*

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**Transition to Next Scene:** *How will you lead into what follows?*

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**SCENE STRUCTURE CHECKLIST**

- Scene has a clear goal or purpose
- Characters have distinct motivations
- Conflict is established early
- Setting is established without info-dumping
- Dialogue serves multiple purposes (character, plot, information)
- Sensory details create immersion
- Scene includes a clear turning point or shift
- Ending drives the reader forward
- Scene contributes meaningfully to the overall story
- Pacing feels appropriate for the content

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**NOTES & IDEAS**

*Additional thoughts, alternatives, or questions about this scene:*

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