# **Suspense**

**Definition:**

Suspense is the intense feeling that an audience goes through while waiting for the outcome of certain events. It basically leaves the reader holding their breath and wanting more information.

The amount of intensity in a suspenseful moment is why it is hard to put a book down. Without suspense, a reader would lose interest quickly in any story because there is nothing that is making the reader ask, “What’s going to happen next?”

|  |
| --- |
| **SUSPENSE**  Makes the reader uncertain or tense about the outcome of events. Suspense is greatest when it focuses attention on a sympathetic character.  **Foreshadowing**: Hints like symbols or scenes that help us to predict the plot. This feature is often revealed at the end of reading a text.  **Action sequences**: Scenes when characters are challenged in some physical way (threatened, overcoming obstacles, natural disaster). |

|  |
| --- |
| H.O.T. Questions for expanding on suspense as a literary feature: |

|  |
| --- |
| How did the author use action sequences or foreshadowing to create suspense?  How did you feel sympathetic towards your character?  How did this feature impact your reading? |

For Ex: In Fallen Kingdom, Owen the animal behaviourist, is trying to get his old dinosaur “Blue” to reconnect with him in order to save her from an island where the volcano is close to eruption. (Acting)

Suspense is created with the audience in a few ways. For one, Owen is unsure if she will recognize and accept him without attacking. Secondly, she is watching him from somewhere because we know she can smell him from a mile away. There is a very cool shot of him in the upside down car mirror that indicates “objects are closer than they appear” she may see him? (camera work)

Thirdly, she jumps out at him after a long walk through the tall grass where we keep looking for her, and after smaller raptors jump out and we have just sighed with relief. (jump scene)

There is no music added, the audio is diegetic sounds of the surroundings, which is a rumbling volcano and creepy jungle with unknown creatures...she does not accept his gift of meat hmmm? Will she accept him? These questions add to our tension in the moment….