

WiseWrite Unit 6: TIME, PLACE, AT RISE

To help the actors and the reader, you need to provide important details to set up your scenes. Each scene begins with TIME, PLACE and AT RISE.

TIME: When does your scene take place? You can use a specific hour (2:00 PM, midnight...), or a time of day (morning, afternoon...), or a season (fall, summer...). Time helps the reader and the actors know how much time elapses between each scene of the play (the next day, a year later...). Think about what is logical. Don't put a scene at school starting at 3:0 AM.

PLACE: The location of your scene. Be specific. (Pat's bedroom, the backyard, on a spaceship...)

AT RISE: What do we see when the curtain rises? What are the characters doing besides talking? Do not include character wants or descriptions.

EXAMPLE

Time: Monday morning, just before the first bell

Place: The playground at New Town Elementary

At Rise: The fifth grade class is frozen while the teachers look on, crying.

MS. BARTEL

I can't believe this!

MS. LODEN

Well you are the one who suggested that Mr. Gomez use his magic powers...

1. Cross out any information that does NOT belong in the TIME, PLACE, AT RISE section. Leave what belongs.

Time: 4:30 am in the underground castle

Place: An underground castle where the witch lives and she loves her cauldron.

At Rise: The witch wants to get rid of the prince. She is stirring the potion and laughing. She doesn't like to eat peanut brittle.

2. Start a new scene only if there is a new location or a passage of time that doesn't occur on stage. Each new scene needs a new TIME, PLACE, AT RISE. A new strategy in the same place and time is still the same scene. Make up your own:

Time: _____

Place: _____

At Rise: _____