

HIGH-TEMPERATURE SCENES INCLUDE:

- CONFLICT between two or more characters--physical, emotional, psychological.
- OBSERVABLE, INTERESTING behavior on the part of characters/protagonist--characters ACTING so that we can see/experience it in our minds/guts/heart.
- TENSION in the form of unanswered questions.
- POWER taken away from protagonist.
- POWER absent from protagonist.
- ELEMENTS acting against characters.
- SURPRISING revelations, reversals of fortune, the unanticipated moment or response.
- EMOTIONAL challenge of the protagonist--heightened feeling, loss of control, self-revelation, reckoning with things previously kept hidden in the emotional realm.

HIGH-TEMPERATURE STORYTELLING



LOW-TEMPERATURE SCENES INCLUDE:

- AGREEMENT between two or more characters.
- Characters in ISOLATION, REFLECTING on their actions, their lives, the decisions they now face.
- IMPARTING of information, answering of questions.
- EXPOSITION--summarizing of events, "telling" instead of showing.
- POWER given to protagonist.
- Protagonist entering the scene in the POWER position.
- ELEMENTS acting in the protagonist's favor. (Coincidences, luck, etc.)
- Events unfolding just as EXPECTED--by both reader and characters.
- Protagonist feeling CALM/COLLECTED/UNFLAPPABLE.

More high-temperature scenes make for a more compelling novel, so turn up the heat!