

Scene Structure Exercises

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Analyzing Chapter One from *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*—Goal

Exercise:

1. Time for you to apply the techniques you learned from the blog post [How to Add Character Goals to a Scene](#).
2. Read chapter one of *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*.
3. Identify the character's Goal, and analyze how **internal thought, dialogue, and action** have been employed—or could be employed—to convey the goal effectively.

SCENE: 1 MR. DURSLEY SEES A CAT

- **Starts At:** “At half past eight, Mr. Dursley picked up his briefcase, pecked Mrs. Dursley on the cheek, and tried to kiss Dudley good-bye but missed, because Dudley was now having a tantrum and throwing his cereal at the walls.”
- **Ends With:** “As he drove toward town he thought of nothing except a large order of drills he was hoping to get that day.”
- **Answer:**
 - Goal: Go to work.
 - Action: “At half past eight, Mr. Dursley picked up his briefcase, pecked Mrs. Dursley on the cheek, and tried to kiss Dudley good-bye but missed, because Dudley was now having a tantrum and throwing his cereal at the walls.” (A hint with the briefcase.)
- **Answer:**
 - Goal: Go to work.
 - Action: “He got into his car and backed out of number four’s drive.”

SCENE 2: MR. DURSLEY’S DRIVE

- **Starts At:** “But on the edge of town, drills were driven out of his mind by something else.”

- **Ends With:** “The traffic moved on and a few minutes later, Mr. Dursley arrived in the Grunnings parking lot, his mind back on drills.”
- **Answer:** The Goal is carried over from the last scene. Drive to work.
- *Between Scenes 2 and 3 is a summary paragraph to move the story along.*

SCENE 3: MR. DURSLEY’S LUNCH BREAK

- **Starts At:** “He was in a very good mood until lunchtime, when he thought he’d stretch his legs and walk across the road to buy himself a bun from the bakery.”
- **Ends With:** “He looked back at the whisperers as if he wanted to say something to them, but thought better of it.”
- **Answer:**
 - Goal: Get some food.
 - Internal thought: “He was in a very good mood until lunchtime, when he thought he’d stretch his legs and walk across the road to buy himself a bun from the bakery.”

SCENE 4: MR. DURSLEY’S PHONE CALL

- **Starts At:** “He dashed back across the road, hurried up to his office, snapped at his secretary not to disturb him, seized his telephone, and had almost finished dialing his home number when he changed his mind.”
- **Ends With:** “He found it a lot harder to concentrate on drills that afternoon and when he left the building at five o’clock, he was still so worried that he walked straight into someone just outside the door.”
- **Answer:**
 - Goal: Make a phone call.
 - Action: “He dashed back across the road, hurried up to his office, snapped at his secretary not to disturb him, seized his telephone, and had almost finished dialing his home number when he changed his mind.”

SCENE 5: MR. DURSLEY WORK DAY IS OVER

- **Starts At:** “He found it a lot harder to concentrate on drills that afternoon and when he left the building at five o’clock, he was still so worried that he walked straight into someone just outside the door.”

- **Ends With:** “He hurried to his car and set off for home, hoping he was imagining things, which he had never hoped before, because he didn’t approve of imagination.”
- **Answer:**
 - Goal: Go home.
 - Action: “He found it a lot harder to concentrate on drills that afternoon and when he left the building at five o’clock, he was still so worried that he walked straight into someone just outside the door.” (Implied by leaving the building at five o’clock.)

SCENE 6: MR. DURSLEY ARRIVES AT HOME

- **Starts At:** “As he pulled into the driveway of number four, the first thing he saw—and it didn’t improve his mood—was the tabby cat he’d spotted that morning.”
- **Ends With:** “He was determined not to mention anything to his wife.”
- **Answer:**
 - Goal: Go home.
 - Action: “As he pulled into the driveway of number four, the first thing he saw—and it didn’t improve his mood—was the tabby cat he’d spotted that morning.”

SCENE 7: THE NEWSCAST

- **Starts At:** “Mrs. Dursley had had a nice, normal day.”
- **Ends With:** “He didn’t say another word on the subject as they went upstairs to bed.”
- **Answer:** The Goal was stated in the last scene’s New Goal and is implied in this scene. (Not to tell his wife.)

SCENE 8: BEDTIME

- **Starts At:** “While Mrs. Dursley was in the bathroom, Mr. Dursley crept to the bedroom window and peered down into the front garden.”
- **Ends With:** “He couldn’t see how he and Petunia could get mixed up in anything that might be going on—he yawned and turned over—it couldn’t affect *them*...”
- **Answer:**
 - Goal: Look outside.

- Action: “While Mrs. Dursley was in the bathroom, Mr. Dursley crept to the bedroom window and peered down into the front garden.”
- *Between scenes 8 and 9 is a paragraph from an omniscient narrator.*

SCENE 9: DUMBLEDORE AND MCGONAGALL'S DISCUSSION

- **Starts At:** “A man appeared on the corner the cat had been watching, appeared so suddenly and silently you’d have thought he’d just popped out of the ground.”
- **Ends At:** The end of the chapter.
- **Answer:**
 - Goal: Go to the Dursley's home.
 - Action: “Dumbledore slipped the Put-Outer back inside his cloak and set off down the street toward number four, where he sat down on the wall next to the cat.”

Analyzing Chapter One from *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*—Disruption

Exercise:

1. Time for you to apply the techniques you learned from the blog post [How to Use Disruption in Scene Structure](#).
2. Read chapter one of *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*.
3. Identify the scene's disruption, and analyze how **internal or external** events have been employed—or could be employed—to convey Disruption effectively.

SCENE: 1 MR. DURSLEY SEES A CAT

- **Starts At:** “At half past eight, Mr. Dursley picked up his briefcase, pecked Mrs. Dursley on the cheek, and tried to kiss Dudley good-bye but missed, because Dudley was now having a tantrum and throwing his cereal at the walls.”
- **Ends With:** “As he drove toward town he thought of nothing except a large order of drills he was hoping to get that day.”
- **Answer:**
 - Disruption: A cat is reading a map.
 - External: “It was on the corner of the street that he noticed the first sign of something peculiar—a cat reading a map.”

SCENE 2: MR. DURSLEY'S DRIVE

- **Starts At:** “But on the edge of town, drills were driven out of his mind by something else.”
- **Ends With:** “The traffic moved on and a few minutes later, Mr. Dursley arrived in the Grunnings parking lot, his mind back on drills.”
- **Answer:**
 - Disruption: People wearing weird things.

- External: “As he sat in the usual morning traffic jam, he couldn’t help noticing that there seemed to be a lot of strangely dressed people about.”

Between Scenes 2 and 3 is a summary paragraph to move the story along.

SCENE 3: MR. DURSLEY’S LUNCH BREAK

- **Starts At:** “He was in a very good mood until lunchtime, when he thought he’d stretch his legs and walk across the road to buy himself a bun from the bakery.”
- **Ends With:** “He looked back at the whisperers as if he wanted to say something to them, but thought better of it.”
- **Answer:**
 - Disruption: People talking.
 - External: “It was on his way back past them, clutching a large doughnut in a bag, that he caught a few words of what they were saying.”

SCENE 4: MR. DURSLEY’S PHONE CALL

- **Starts At:** “He dashed back across the road, hurried up to his office, snapped at his secretary not to disturb him, seized his telephone, and had almost finished dialing his home number when he changed his mind.”
- **Ends With:** “He found it a lot harder to concentrate on drills that afternoon and when he left the building at five o’clock, he was still so worried that he walked straight into someone just outside the door.”
- **Answer:**
 - Disruption: He changed his mind.
 - Internal: “He dashed back across the road, hurried up to his office, snapped at his secretary not to disturb him, seized his telephone, and had almost finished dialing his home number when he changed his mind.”

SCENE 5: MR. DURSLEY WORK DAY IS OVER

- **Starts At:** “He found it a lot harder to concentrate on drills that afternoon and when he left the building at five o’clock, he was still so worried that he walked straight into someone just outside the door.”
- **Ends With:** “He hurried to his car and set off for home, hoping he was imagining things, which he had never hoped before, because he didn’t approve of imagination.”

- **Answer:**
 - Disruption: Distracted, and someone is in his way.
 - Internal and External: “He found it a lot harder to concentrate on drills that afternoon and when he left the building at five o’clock, he was still so worried that he walked straight into someone just outside the door.”

SCENE 6: MR. DURSLEY ARRIVES AT HOME

- **Starts At:** “As he pulled into the driveway of number four, the first thing he saw—and it didn’t improve his mood—was the tabby cat he’d spotted that morning.”
- **Ends With:** “He was determined not to mention anything to his wife.”
- **Answer:**
 - Disruption: He sees the cat again.
 - External: “As he pulled into the driveway of number four, the first thing he saw—and it didn’t improve his mood—was the tabby cat he’d spotted that morning.”

SCENE 7: THE NEWSCAST

- **Starts At:** “Mrs. Dursley had had a nice, normal day.”
- **Ends With:** “He didn’t say another word on the subject as they went upstairs to bed.”
- **Answer:**
 - Disruption: The news report.
 - External: (The evening news report).

SCENE 8: BEDTIME

- **Starts At:** “While Mrs. Dursley was in the bathroom, Mr. Dursley crept to the bedroom window and peered down into the front garden.”
- **Ends With:** “He couldn’t see how he and Petunia could get mixed up in anything that might be going on—he yawned and turned over—it couldn’t affect *them*...”
- **Answer:**
 - Disruption: Still sees the cat.
 - External: “The cat was still there.”

Between scene 8 and 9 is a paragraph from an omniscient narrator.

SCENE 9: DUMBLEDORE AND MCGONAGALL'S DISCUSSION

- **Starts At:** “A man appeared on the corner the cat had been watching, appeared so suddenly and silently you’d have thought he’d just popped out of the ground.”
- **Ends At:** The end of the chapter.
- **Answer:**
 - Disruption: The cat is staring at him.
 - External: “But he did seem to realize he was being watched, because he looked up suddenly at the cat, which was still staring at him from the other end of the street.”

Analyzing Chapter One from *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*—Choice

Exercise:

1. Time for you to apply the techniques you learned from the blog post [How to Use Choice in Your Scene](#).
2. Read chapter one of *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*.
3. Identify the scene's choice, and analyze how **dialogue, internal thoughts, and actions** have been employed—or could be employed—to convey the character's Choice effectively.

SCENE: 1 MR. DURSLEY SEES A CAT

- **Starts At:** "At half past eight, Mr. Dursley picked up his briefcase, pecked Mrs. Dursley on the cheek, and tried to kiss Dudley good-bye but missed, because Dudley was now having a tantrum and throwing his cereal at the walls."
- **Ends With:** "As he drove toward town he thought of nothing except a large order of drills he was hoping to get that day."
- **Answer:**
 - Choice: Confused, and looks again.
 - Internal Thoughts and Action: "For a second, Mr. Dursley didn't realize what he had seen—then he jerked his head around to look again."

SCENE 2: MR. DURSLEY'S DRIVE

- **Starts At:** "But on the edge of town, drills were driven out of his mind by something else."
- **Ends With:** "The traffic moved on and a few minutes later, Mr. Dursley arrived in the Grunnings parking lot, his mind back on drills."
- **Answer:**
 - Choice: He can't help but notice people.

- Internal Thoughts and Action: "As he sat in the usual morning traffic jam, he couldn't help noticing that there seemed to be a lot of strangely dressed people about."

Between Scenes 2 and 3 is a summary paragraph to move the story along.

SCENE 3: MR. DURSLEY'S LUNCH BREAK

- **Starts At:** "He was in a very good mood until lunchtime, when he thought he'd stretch his legs and walk across the road to buy himself a bun from the bakery."
- **Ends With:** "He looked back at the whisperers as if he wanted to say something to them, but thought better of it."
- **Answer:**
 - Choice: He listens to the people.
 - Action: "It was on his way back past them, clutching a large doughnut in a bag, that he caught a few words of what they were saying."

SCENE 4: MR. DURSLEY'S PHONE CALL

- **Starts At:** "He dashed back across the road, hurried up to his office, snapped at his secretary not to disturb him, seized his telephone, and had almost finished dialing his home number when he changed his mind."
- **Ends With:** "He found it a lot harder to concentrate on drills that afternoon and when he left the building at five o'clock, he was still so worried that he walked straight into someone just outside the door."
- **Answer:**
 - Choice: He puts the receiver back down and thinks he is being stupid.
 - Action and Internal thoughts: "He put the receiver back down and stroked his mustache, thinking...no, he was being stupid."

SCENE 5: MR. DURSLEY WORK DAY IS OVER

- **Starts At:** "He found it a lot harder to concentrate on drills that afternoon and when he left the building at five o'clock, he was still so worried that he walked straight into someone just outside the door."
- **Ends With:** "He hurried to his car and set off for home, hoping he was imagining things, which he had never hoped before, because he didn't approve of imagination."
- **Answer:**

- Choice: He tells the man sorry.
- Dialogue: "'Sorry,' he grunted, as the tiny old man stumbled and almost fell."

SCENE 6: MR. DURSLEY ARRIVES AT HOME

- **Starts At:** "As he pulled into the driveway of number four, the first thing he saw—and it didn't improve his mood—was the tabby cat he'd spotted that morning."
- **Ends With:** "He was determined not to mention anything to his wife."
- **Answer:**
 - Choice: He shoos the cat away.
 - Dialogue: "'Shoo!' said Mr. Dursley loudly."

SCENE 7: THE NEWSCAST

- **Starts At:** "Mrs. Dursley had had a nice, normal day."
- **Ends With:** "He didn't say another word on the subject as they went upstairs to bed."
- **Answer:**
 - Choice: He asks Petunia while trying not to give what he knows away.
 - Dialogue: "He cleared his throat nervously. 'Er—Petunia, dear—you haven't heard from your sister lately, have you?'"

SCENE 8: BEDTIME

- **Starts At:** "While Mrs. Dursley was in the bathroom, Mr. Dursley crept to the bedroom window and peered down into the front garden."
- **Ends With:** "He couldn't see how he and Petunia could get mixed up in anything that might be going on—he yawned and turned over—it couldn't affect *them*..."
- **Answer:**
 - Choice: He continued to stare at the cat.
 - Action: (Implied: continued to stare at the cat)

Between scenes 8 and 9 is a paragraph from an omniscient narrator.

SCENE 9: DUMBLEDORE AND MCGONAGALL'S DISCUSSION

- **Starts At:** "A man appeared on the corner the cat had been watching, appeared so suddenly and silently you'd have thought he'd just popped out of the ground."
- **Ends At:** The end of the chapter.
- **Answer:**
 - Choice: He sits down next to the cat.
 - Action: "Dumbledore slipped the Put-Outer back inside his cloak and set off down the street toward number four, where he sat down on the wall next to the cat."

Analyzing Chapter One from *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*—Turning Point

Exercise:

1. Time for you to apply the techniques you learned from the blog post [How to Use a Turning Point in Your Scene](#).
2. Read chapter one of *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*.
3. Identify the scene's turning point, and analyze how **revelation, decision, and unexpected events** have been employed—or could be employed—to effectively convey the Turning Point.

SCENE: 1 MR. DURSLEY SEES A CAT

- **Starts At:** “At half past eight, Mr. Dursley picked up his briefcase, pecked Mrs. Dursley on the cheek, and tried to kiss Dudley good-bye but missed, because Dudley was now having a tantrum and throwing his cereal at the walls.”
- **Ends With:** “As he drove toward town he thought of nothing except a large order of drills he was hoping to get that day.”
- **Answer:**
 - Turning Point: The cat was still there, but no map was in sight.
 - Unexpected Event: “There was a tabby cat standing on the corner of Privet Drive, but there wasn't a map in sight.”

SCENE 2: MR. DURSLEY'S DRIVE

- **Starts At:** “But on the edge of town, drills were driven out of his mind by something else.”
- **Ends with:** “The traffic moved on and a few minutes later, Mr. Dursley arrived in the Grunnings parking lot, his mind back on drills.”
- **Answer:**
 - Turning Point: The people were dressed weirdly.
 - Unexpected Event: “People in cloaks.”

Between Scenes 2 and 3 is a summary paragraph to move the story along.

SCENE 3: MR. DURSLEY'S LUNCH BREAK

- **Starts At:** “He was in a very good mood until lunchtime, when he thought he’d stretch his legs and walk across the road to buy himself a bun from the bakery.”
- **Ends With:** “He looked back at the whisperers as if he wanted to say something to them, but thought better of it.”
- **Answer:**
 - Turning Point: The people are talking about the Potters and Harry.
 - Revelation: “‘The Potters, that’s right, that’s what I heard—’ ‘—yes, their son, Harry—’”

SCENE 4: MR. DURSLEY'S PHONE CALL

- **Starts At:** “He dashed back across the road, hurried up to his office, snapped at his secretary not to disturb him, seized his telephone, and had almost finished dialing his home number when he changed his mind.”
- **Ends With:** “He found it a lot harder to concentrate on drills that afternoon and when he left the building at five o’clock, he was still so worried that he walked straight into someone just outside the door.”
- **Answer:**
 - Turning Point: He decides he is overreacting.
 - Decision: “He was sure there were lots of people called Potter who had a son called Harry.”

SCENE 5: MR. DURSLEY WORK DAY IS OVER

- **Starts At:** “He found it a lot harder to concentrate on drills that afternoon and when he left the building at five o’clock, he was still so worried that he walked straight into someone just outside the door.”
- **Ends With:** “He hurried to his car and set off for home, hoping he was imagining things, which he had never hoped before, because he didn’t approve of imagination.”
- **Answer:**
 - Turning Point: A stranger hugs him.
 - Unexpected Event: “And the old man hugged Mr. Dursley around the middle and walked off.” (A stranger hugs him.)

SCENE 6: MR. DURSLEY ARRIVES AT HOME

- **Starts At:** “As he pulled into the driveway of number four, the first thing he saw—and it didn’t improve his mood—was the tabby cat he’d spotted that morning.”
- **Ends With:** “He was determined not to mention anything to his wife.”
- **Answer:**
 - Turning Point: The cat is not afraid of him and stares at him.
 - Unexpected Event: “The cat didn’t move. It just gave him a stern look.”

SCENE 7: THE NEWSCAST

- **Starts At:** “Mrs. Dursley had had a nice, normal day.”
- **Ends With:** “He didn’t say another word on the subject as they went upstairs to bed.”
- **Answer:**
 - Turning Point: Their nephew is called Harry.
 - Revelation: “‘Harry. Nasty, common name, if you ask me.’”

SCENE 8: BEDTIME

- **Starts At:** “While Mrs. Dursley was in the bathroom, Mr. Dursley crept to the bedroom window and peered down into the front garden.”
- **Ends With:** “He couldn’t see how he and Petunia could get mixed up in anything that might be going on—he yawned and turned over—it couldn’t affect them...”
- **Answer:**
 - Turning Point: The cat is still there.
 - Unexpected Event: “It was staring down Privet Drive as though it were waiting for something.”

Between scenes 8 and 9 is a paragraph from an omniscient narrator.

SCENE 9: DUMBLEDORE AND MCGONAGALL’S DISCUSSION

- **Starts At:** “A man appeared on the corner the chat had been watching, appeared so suddenly and silently you’d have thought he’d just popped out of the ground.”
- **Ends At:** The end of the chapter.

- **Answer:**
 - Turning Point: News that the Dursleys are not an ideal place for Harry.
 - Revelation: “Dumbledore—you can’t. I’ve been watching them all day. You couldn’t find two people who are less like us.”

Analyzing Chapter One from *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*—Reaction

Exercise:

1. Time for you to apply the techniques you learned from the blog post [How to Use Reaction in Your Scene Structure](#).
2. Read chapter one of *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*.
3. Identify the scene's reaction, and analyze how **dialogue, internal thoughts, facial expressions/body language, and action** have been employed—or could be employed—to convey the character's Reaction effectively.

SCENE: 1 MR. DURSLEY SEES A CAT

- **Starts At:** "At half past eight, Mr. Dursley picked up his briefcase, pecked Mrs. Dursley on the cheek, and tried to kiss Dudley good-bye but missed, because Dudley was now having a tantrum and throwing his cereal at the walls."
- **Ends With:** "As he drove toward town he thought of nothing except a large order of drills he was hoping to get that day."
- **Answer:**
 - Reaction: Doubting himself.
 - Internal Thoughts: "What could he have been thinking of? It must have been a trick of the light."
- **Answer:**
 - Reaction: Shaking his head.
 - Body language: "Mr. Dursley gave himself a little shake and put the cat out of his mind."

SCENE 2: MR. DURSLEY'S DRIVE

- **Starts At:** "But on the edge of town, drills were driven out of his mind by something else."
- **Ends With:** "The traffic moved on and a few minutes later, Mr. Dursley arrived in the Grunnings parking lot, his mind back on drills."

- **Answer:**
 - Reaction: His dislike for weird clothes.
 - Internal Thoughts: "Mr. Dursley couldn't bear people who dressed in funny clothes—the getups you saw on young people!"
- **Answer:**
 - Reaction: His opinion of them.
 - Internal Thoughts: "...a huddle of these weirdos standing quite close by."
- **Answer:**
 - Reaction: He's enraged.
 - Body language: (Note this is telling, not showing. If it had been shown, it would be clearer that it falls in the body language section.) "Mr. Dursley was enraged to see that a couple of them weren't young at all; why, that man had to be older than he was, and wearing an emerald green cloak!"
- **Answer:**
 - Reaction: His opinion of them.
 - Internal Thoughts: "The nerve of him!"

Between Scenes 2 and 3 is a summary paragraph to move the story along.

SCENE 3: MR. DURSLEY'S LUNCH BREAK

- **Starts At:** "He was in a very good mood until lunchtime, when he thought he'd stretch his legs and walk across the road to buy himself a bun from the bakery."
"
- **Ends With:** "He looked back at the whisperers as if he wanted to say something to them, but thought better of it."
- **Answer:**
 - Reaction: Stopped, and his body is full of fear.
 - Action and body language: "Mr. Dursley stopped dead. Fear flooded him."

SCENE 4: MR. DURSLEY'S PHONE CALL

- **Starts At:** "He dashed back across the road, hurried up to his office, snapped at his secretary not to disturb him, seized his telephone, and had almost finished dialing his home number when he changed his mind."
- **Ends With:** "He found it a lot harder to concentrate on drills that afternoon and when he left the building at five o'clock, he was still so worried that he walked straight into someone just outside the door."
- **Answer:**
 - Reaction: He couldn't concentrate.
 - Internal thoughts: "He found it a lot harder to concentrate on drills that afternoon and when he left the building at five o'clock, he was still so worried that he walked straight into someone just outside the door."

SCENE 5: MR. DURSLEY WORK DAY IS OVER

- **Starts At:** "He found it a lot harder to concentrate on drills that afternoon and when he left the building at five o'clock, he was still so worried that he walked straight into someone just outside the door."
- **Ends With:** "He hurried to his car and set off for home, hoping he was imagining things, which he had never hoped before, because he didn't approve of imagination."
- **Answer:**
 - Reaction: Confused.
 - Body language: (I could see how this might also fall under action since not moving is a sort of action.) "Mr. Dursley stood rooted to the spot."
- **Answer:**
 - Reaction: Still confused.
 - Internal Thoughts: "He had been hugged by a complete stranger."
- **Answer:**
 - Reaction: Shook up.
 - Body language: "He was rattled."

SCENE 6: MR. DURSLEY ARRIVES AT HOME

- **Starts At:** "As he pulled into the driveway of number four, the first thing he saw—and it didn't improve his mood—was the tabby cat he'd spotted that morning."
- **Ends With:** "He was determined not to mention anything to his wife."
- **Answer:**
 - Reaction: He is pulling himself together and going into his house.
 - Action: "Trying to pull himself together, he let himself into the house."

SCENE 7: THE NEWSCAST

- **Starts At:** "Mrs. Dursley had had a nice, normal day."
- **Ends With:** "He didn't say another word on the subject as they went upstairs to bed."
- **Answer:**
 - Reaction: Does not like the answer.
 - Dialogue and body language: "Oh, yes," said Mr. Dursley, his heart sinking horribly."

SCENE 8: BEDTIME

- **Starts At:** "While Mrs. Dursley was in the bathroom, Mr. Dursley crept to the bedroom window and peered down into the front garden."
- **Ends With:** "He couldn't see how he and Petunia could get mixed up in anything that might be going on—he yawned and turned over—it couldn't affect *them*..."
- **Answer:**
 - Reaction: Unsure.
 - Internal Thoughts: "Was he imagining things?"
- **Answer:**
 - Reaction: Upset.
 - Internal Thoughts: "If it did... if it got out that they were related to a pair of— well, he didn't think he could bear it."

Between scenes 8 and 9 is a paragraph from an omniscient narrator.

SCENE 9: DUMBLEDORE AND MCGONAGALL'S DISCUSSION

- **Starts At:** "A man appeared on the corner the cat had been watching, appeared so suddenly and silently you'd have thought he'd just popped out of the ground."
- **Ends At:** The end of the chapter.
- **Answer:**
 - Reaction: States why it is the right place for Harry.
 - Dialogue: It's the whole conversation Dumbledore has with Professor McGonagall about why it's the right place for Harry.
- **Answer:**
 - Reaction: He is very serious about Harry living with the Dursleys.
 - Body language: "...looking very seriously over the top of his half-moon glasses."

Analyzing Chapter One from *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*—New Goal

Exercise:

1. Time for you to apply the techniques you learned from the blog post [How to Use a New Goal in Scene Structure](#).
2. Read chapter one of *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*.
3. Identify the scene's new goal, and analyze how **Dialogue**, **Internal thoughts**, **and action** have been employed—or could be employed—to convey the character's Reaction effectively.

SCENE: 1 MR. DURSLEY SEES A CAT

- **Starts At:** "At half past eight, Mr. Dursley picked up his briefcase, pecked Mrs. Dursley on the cheek, and tried to kiss Dudley good-bye but missed, because Dudley was now having a tantrum and throwing his cereal at the walls."
- **Ends With:** "As he drove toward town he thought of nothing except a large order of drills he was hoping to get that day."
- **Answer:**
 - New Goal: Drive to work.
 - Action and Internal thoughts: "As he drove toward town he thought of nothing except a large order of drills he was hoping to get that day."

SCENE 2: MR. DURSLEY'S DRIVE

- **Starts At:** "But on the edge of town, drills were driven out of his mind by something else."
- **Ends With:** "The traffic moved on and a few minutes later, Mr. Dursley arrived in the Grunnings parking lot, his mind back on drills."
- **Answer:**
 - New Goal: Go to work.

- Action and Internal thoughts: "The traffic moved on and a few minutes later, Mr. Dursley arrived in the Grunnings parking lot, his mind back on drills."

Between Scenes 2 and 3 is a summary paragraph to move the story along.

SCENE 3: MR. DURSLEY'S LUNCH BREAK

- **Starts At:** "He was in a very good mood until lunchtime, when he thought he'd stretch his legs and walk across the road to buy himself a bun from the bakery."
- **Ends With:** "He looked back at the whisperers as if he wanted to say something to them, but thought better of it."
- **Answer:** The New Goal is left out and shown in the next scene as the Goal.

SCENE 4: MR. DURSLEY'S PHONE CALL

- **Starts At:** "He dashed back across the road, hurried up to his office, snapped at his secretary not to disturb him, seized his telephone, and had almost finished dialing his home number when he changed his mind."
- **Ends With:** "He found it a lot harder to concentrate on drills that afternoon and when he left the building at five o'clock, he was still so worried that he walked straight into someone just outside the door."
- **Answer:**
 - New Goal: Continue with work and then go home.
 - Internal thoughts: "He found it a lot harder to concentrate on drills that afternoon and when he left the building at five o'clock, he was still so worried that he walked straight into someone just outside the door."

SCENE 5: MR. DURSLEY WORK DAY IS OVER

- **Starts At:** "He found it a lot harder to concentrate on drills that afternoon and when he left the building at five o'clock, he was still so worried that he walked straight into someone just outside the door."
- **Ends With:** "He hurried to his car and set off for home, hoping he was imagining things, which he had never hoped before, because he didn't approve of imagination."
- **Answer:**
 - New Goal: Go home.

- Action: "He hurried to his car and set off for home, hoping he was imagining things, which he had never hoped before, because he didn't approve of imagination."

SCENE 6: MR. DURSLEY ARRIVES AT HOME

- **Starts At:** "As he pulled into the driveway of number four, the first thing he saw—and it didn't improve his mood—was the tabby cat he'd spotted that morning."
- **Ends With:** "He was determined not to mention anything to his wife."
- **Answer:**
 - New Goal: Keep his day a secret from his wife.
 - Action and internal thought: "He let himself into the house. He was determined not to mention anything to his wife."

SCENE 7: THE NEWSCAST

- **Starts At:** "Mrs. Dursley had had a nice, normal day."
- **Ends With:** "He didn't say another word on the subject as they went upstairs to bed."
- **Answer:**
 - New Goal: Go to bed.
 - Action: "He didn't say another word on the subject as they went upstairs to bed."

SCENE 8: BEDTIME

- **Starts At:** "While Mrs. Dursley was in the bathroom, Mr. Dursley crept to the bedroom window and peered down into the front garden."
- **Ends With:** "He couldn't see how he and Petunia could get mixed up in anything that might be going on—he yawned and turned over—it couldn't affect *them*..."
- **Answer:**
 - New Goal: Go to sleep.
 - Action: "The Dursleys got into bed."

Between scenes 8 and 9 is a paragraph from an omniscient narrator.

SCENE 9: DUMBLEDORE AND MCGONAGALL'S DISCUSSION

- **Starts At:** "A man appeared on the corner the cat had been watching, appeared so suddenly and silently you'd have thought he'd just popped out of the ground."
- **Ends At:** The end of the chapter.
- **Answer:**
 - New Goal: The Goal from the beginning becomes the end Goal again.
 - Dialogue: "'I've come to bring Harry to his aunt and uncle.'"
- **Answer:**
 - New Goal: Leave Harry at the Dursley's place.
 - Action: "Dumbledore stepped over the low garden wall and walked to the front door. He laid Harry gently on the doorstep." (Note that there is no New Goal with an overreaching story arc because, from here on, the book's perspective is from Harry's POV. This means there is no need to continue his arc, so there is no need for another New Goal.)

Bonus Chapter Analysis

Exercise:

1. Time for you to apply all the techniques you've learned so far.
2. Read chapter two of *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*.
3. Identify the six elements of Satisfying Scenes—goal, disruption, choice, turning point, reaction, and new goal.

The chapter starts with summary paragraphs from an omniscient narrator.

SCENE: 1 BREAKFAST

- **Starts At:** “Up! Get up! Now!”
- **Ends With:** “Dudley stopped pretending to cry at once.”
- **Goal:** Action and Internal thoughts: “He rolled onto his back and tried to remember the dream he had been having.” (Continue his dream.)
- **Disruption:** External: “Well, get a move on, I want you to look after the bacon. And don’t you dare let it burn, I want everything perfect on Duddy’s birthday.” (His aunt wants his help.)
- **Choice:** Dialogue: “Harry Groaned.” (Dosen’t want to.)
- **Choice:** Action: “Harry got slowly out of bed and started looking for socks.” (Does it, anyways.)
- **Turning Point:** Unexpected Event and Revelation in one: “Bad news, Vernon,’ she said. ‘Mrs. Figg’s broken her leg. She can’t take him.’ She jerked her head in Harry’s direction.” (He can no longer go to Mrs. Figg’s place.)
- **Reaction:** Body language: “Dudley’s mouth fell open in horror, but Harry’s heart gave a leap.” (Harry is excited because he no longer has to go to Mrs. Figg’s place.)
- **Reaction:** Internal thought: “Harry hated it there. The whole house smelled of cabbage and Mrs. Figg made him look at photographs of all the cats she’d ever owned.” (Hates Mrs. Figg’s place.)

- **Reaction:** Internal thought: Harry knew he ought to feel sorry that Mrs. Figg had broken her leg, but it wasn't easy when he reminded himself it would be a whole year before he had to look at Tibbles, Snowy, Mr. Paws, and Tufty again." (He doesn't feel guilty about his Reaction.)
- **New Goal:** Dialogue: "You could just leave me here," Harry put in hopefully (he'd be able to watch what he wanted on television for a change and maybe even have a go on Dudley's computer)." (Stay home and do what he wants.)

SCENE 2: THE ZOO

- **Starts At:** "Half an hour later, Harry, who couldn't believe his luck, was sitting in the back of the Dursleys' car with Piers and Dudley, on the way to the zoo for the first time in his life."
- **Ends At:** The end of the chapter.
- **Goal:** Dialogue: "I'm warning you now, boy—any funny business, anything at all—and you'll be in that cupboard from now until Christmas.'" (Stay unnoticed.)
- **Disruption:** External: "*It winked.*" (A snake winked at him.)
- **Choice:** Action: "Harry stared. Then he looked quickly around to see if anyone was watching. They weren't. He looked back at the snake and winked, too." (He winks back.)
- **Turning Point:** Unexpected Event: "What came next happened so fast no one saw how it happened—one second, Piers and Dudley were leaning right up close to the glass, the next, they had leapt back with howls of horror." (The snake escapes.)
- **Reaction:** Action and Dialogue: "Harry sat up and gasped; the glass front of the boa constrictor's tank had vanished." (He gasps at the situation.)
- **Reaction:** Internal thought and Dialogue: "But worst of all, for Harry at least, was Piers calming down enough to say, 'Harry was talking to it, weren't you, Harry?'" (Worried because he is now noticed.)
- **New Goal:** Action and internal thought: "Harry lay in his dark cupboard much later, wishing he had a watch." (Serve out his punishment.)