

Name: _____ Date: _____

Exploring Mood

Mood is the feeling you get from reading a piece of writing. Writers create mood through the words they choose, the images they create, the setting, and what characters say and do.

suspense [suh-SPENS]:

a feeling of nervousness or excitement caused by
wondering what will happen



In this activity, you will analyze (carefully study) how the writer creates a
suspenseful mood in three different scenes.

SCENE 1

1. What happens: The Old Man tells the Villain that he does not look well.

How this creates suspense: The Old Man’s comment gives the audience the feeling that something is not right about the Villain. The audience starts to worry about what is going to happen.

2. What happens: The Villain says that he decided to kill the Old Man because of the Old Man’s sickly eye.

How this creates suspense— Check one of the boxes below.

- ☐ The Villain’s statement shows that the Villain thinks the Old Man’s eye is gross.
- ☐ The Villain’s statement helps the audience understand why the Villain wanted to kill the Old Man.
- ☐ The Villain’s statement makes the audience begin to worry about what the Villain will do to the Old Man.

SCENE 2

3. What creates suspense in Scene 2? Check the box next to the BEST answer.

- ☐ The playwright draws the scene out, leading up to the murder very slowly.
- ☐ The Ravens, the Villain, and the Old Man all scream “Ahhhhh!” at the moment of the murder.
- ☐ At the end of the scene, the Villain says, “The eye would trouble me no more.”

Explain your answer. How does the detail you chose create suspense?

SCENE 4

4. The details below all create suspense in the play. Choose TWO details from the list and explain how they create suspense.

- ☐ The Villain serves the police officers tea above the spot where the Old Man’s body is hidden.
- ☐ As the officers drink their tea, the Villain grows pale and begins to sweat and fidget.
- ☐ The police officers chat lightly throughout the scene, talking about tea and the countryside.
- ☐ The Villain and the audience begin to hear the sound of the Old Man’s heart beating ever more loudly from under the floorboards.

How the first detail I chose creates suspense: _____

How the second detail I chose creates suspense: _____
