



Timed Scene Challenge

Dear Author,

I borrowed this exercise from Jennie Nash's [Blueprint for a Book](#) because I believe it can truly give you some great possibilities for your story's opening and closing scenes (she calls it the Kitchen Timer Scene Challenge).

The rules will not allow you to write a fully developed scene and you may not even finish before the timer rings, but that's okay. This is merely meant to get you started and help you see a potential route to take. Start simple—you can add detail and nuance later.

The Rules

1. Stick to the time limit.
2. Complete all three rounds for each scene.
3. Take a ten-minute break in between each round to clear your head.

For more information, read my [Tips for writers](#) article titled [Crafting Effective Opening & Closing Scenes](#).

Your editor,

Mandi Summit
Red Quill Editorial LLC

PS: when you're ready for editing, [let's discuss your manuscript](#) and secure your spot on Red Quill Editorial's calendar!



Timed Scene Challenge

Total Time Needed: 4 - 5 hours

Opening Scene (2+ hours)

Round one (30 minutes)

Set a timer for thirty minutes and write the opening scene for your novel.

BREAK (10 minutes)

Round Two (30 minutes)

Set another timer for thirty minutes and write a different opening scene for your novel. This will be difficult, but that's a good thing. It will force you to consider alternate possibilities and potentially find a solid hook!

BREAK (10 minutes)

Round Three (30 minutes)

Set another timer for thirty minutes and write a third opening scene for your novel.

BREAK (10 minutes)

Review

Which of your three opening scenes feels the most powerful and in line with your point and vision for your manuscript?

***** BREAK (10 minutes or longer) *****



Closing Scene (2+ hours)

Round One (30 minutes)

Set a timer for thirty minutes and write the closing scene for your novel.

BREAK (10 minutes)

Round Two (30 minutes)

Set another timer for thirty minutes and write a different closing scene for your novel. Again, this will be difficult, but it will force you to consider alternate possibilities and potentially find the perfect pairing for your opening scene!

BREAK (10 minutes)

Round Three (30 minutes)

Set another timer for thirty minutes and write a third closing scene for your novel.

BREAK (10 minutes)

Review

Which of your three closing scenes feels the most powerful, pairs the best with your chosen opening scene, and is in line with your point and vision for your manuscript?