**Dramatic Significance of a Passage/Chapter**

A chapter, a scene, a passage, or even a line may be significant and of value in one or more of the following ways.

* It may reveal character.
  + We learn something we did not know about a new character or see a development in a character we think we know reasonably well, when the author presents us with evidence of a change in outlook, often as a result of some profoundly life-altering experience.
* It may give information, usually about events that are happening or have happened in the past
* It may present an important contrast in character or mood.
* It may develop pathos or arouse sympathy for a character or characters.
* It may foreshadow future events.
* It may create suspense.
* It may significantly advance the plot.
* It may offer relief (often ‘comic relief’) by providing an interlude of some kind.
* It may establish relationships between and among characters, or show these relationships changing.
* It may be ironic. There are three main types of irony in drama:
  + verbal irony (the speaker intends the opposite of what he says or thinks—this is often called sarcasm);
  + irony of events (an outcome is the opposite of what was expected); and
  + dramatic irony (the audience is aware of something of which at least one character on stage is unaware.
* It may make clear one of the novel’s themes or messages.
* It may tell us a truth about life.
* It may contain significant imagery that clarifies a theme.
* It may contain other devices of significance, such as puns, pathetic fallacy, etc.