

# **MBT Essential Scenes & Layers Checklist**

Take your current work-in-progress (WIP). In what scenes will you apply the following layer reveals? (My chapter suggestions are based on a twenty-chapter book)

**Layer One: His Attire:** (which reveals his Identity) mannerisms, clothing, public goals. (Hint: Commonly this is chapters 1-2)

In **Meet the Hero, or Heroine**, you have a scene that shows:

- ✓ Their Storyworld
- ✓ Their Identity (that essential element that makes them who they are).
- ✓ Their Goals (what they want)
- ✓ The Glimpse of the Greatest Dream – we want to see what he's after, what matters to him. You do this by having him see what he wants – just a glimpse of it.
- ✓ Their Competence (if you need to save word count)

**Layer Two: His Behavior** (which reveals Character/Values/Competence):

Remember, this layer reveals how he treats people, his habits (which also reveal values), his reactions to stress (which reveal past hurts, and his essential character).

- ✓ **If I could only** – what stands in his way to storming the castle and rescuing the princess. (Money, skills, opportunity).
- ✓ **All I want is to be Happy** – the story about his fondest memory and why, and what his greatest dream is.
- ✓ This may lead to **The One that Got away story** – the revelation of his past romances

**Layer Three: His Choices** (which reveal purpose/Noble Cause): This layer reveals his external struggles regarding plot, his greatest dreams and why he thinks he'll never find them, his obstacles to love.

There are a few scenes that accomplish this layer:

- ✓ **If I could only** – what stands in his way to storming the castle and rescuing the princess. (Money, skills, opportunity).

- ✓ **All I want is to be Happy** – the story about his fondest memory and why, and what his greatest dream is.
- ✓ This may lead to **The One that Got away story** – the revelation of his past romances

**Layer Four: His In-security:** His internal struggles, greatest dreams and fears, how he feels about love, his spiritual vacancies. (This might occur anywhere from chapters 12-18)

- ✓ So you need a **Out of Character scene** – have them do something that goes contrary to their goals,
- ✓ Which then leads to the **What if I lose everything scene:** have a hint of his greatest fears happen, a sort of foreshadowing of the black moment, and have him consider giving up.
- ✓ **The Sacrificial Act.** It makes him heroic, but also changes him into the person he needs to be. AKA, what can they do at the end that they can't at the beginning? Shows they are a new, improved person!)

**Layer Five: His Spiritual Lie and the discovery of the truth.**

(Often this occurs near the climatic ending, anywhere from chapters 16-20)

- ✓ A black moment relates to the greatest fear -it's when it comes true in some way. You need the **Black Moment EVENT scene**...which leads to the **Breakdown/Epiphany Scene.**

**To Do: Look through your master plan of your story – do you have all the essential scenes?**