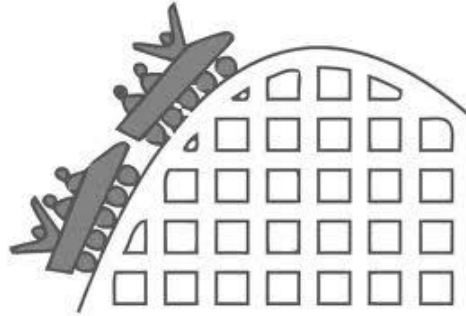


SUSPENSE – A DEFINITION

SUSPENSE is a quality – in a **situation, incident** or in a behaviour – that causes anxious uncertainty.

- ⇒ In a well-planned story, the suspense keeps the audience **wondering** about the outcome of the **main character's** conflict
- ⇒ Anxiety **increases** as the plot **develops**. The plot of a story is like an emotional **rollercoaster**. As you go up, and up, and up, the anxiety **increases** until the **climax** is reached.



TYPES OF SUSPENSE

SUSPENSE can be divided into **two** types: one type provokes **intellectual** curiosity; the other creates **emotional** involvement.

- a) Intellectual Curiosity: Situations, **behaviour** or incidents that pose an intellectual **"teaser"**
- b) Emotional Involvement: A situation, incident, or a series of incidents or behaviour that is so **tense** with feeling or imminent **danger** that the audience, too, experiences the same **emotions** felt by the character.

METHODS USED TO CREATE SUSPENSE

1. Conflict: The audience **wonders** how each conflict will end.
2. A precarious situation: How will the person **get** him or herself out?
3. An unsolvable problem: How can the person involved **resolve** it?
4. Foreshadowing: **Hints** that the author gives about actions and **events** that will happen later in the story. The audience wonders if these will **happen** and what **effect** they will have.
5. Delay: **Postponing** an anticipated event to keep the **interest** high.
6. Red Herrings: **Clues** that lead you off track.