

THE STORY GRID GUILD
Writing Sprint for the week of June 15, 2020

Scene Assignment Type: A “You’re Fired” scene

The Example is from *Invisible Man*, by Ralph Ellison.

Answer the questions below and see if you agree with my interpretation of Ellison’s take on innovating the familiar “you’re fired” scene type using a college administrator as the force of antagonism. Can you also see how this scene embodies elements of “Speech in Praise of the Villain?”

• ANALYZING THE SCENE •

A STORY EVENT is an active change of a universal human value for one or more characters as a result of conflict (one character’s desires clash with another’s, or an environmental shift changes the value positively or negatively).

A WORKING SCENE contains at least one Story Event.

It’s often difficult to identify the Story Event in a scene, so STORY GRID has a set of Four Socratic Questions to help us with the process.

The questions are:

- 1. What are the characters in the scene literally doing—that is, what are their Micro on-the-ground actions?**
- 2. What is the essential tactic of the characters—that is, what Macro behaviors are they employing that are linked to a Universal Human Value?**
- 3. What Universal Human Values have changed for one or more characters in the scene? Which one of those value changes is most important and should be recorded in our STORY GRID SPREADSHEET?**
- 4. What is the Story Event that sums up the scene’s on-the-ground actions, essential tactics, and value change? We will enter that event in the STORY GRID SPREADSHEET.**

HOW THE SCENE ABIDES BY THE FIVE COMMANDMENTS OF STORYTELLING

Inciting Incident:

Progressive Complication:

Turning Point Progressive Complication:

Crisis:

Climax:

Resolution: