

What is Suspense?

Suspense is the element that authors use to try to leave the reader hanging, trying to figure out what will happen next, especially when the author does this at the end of the book without actually telling what happens. This leaves a particularly strong effect.

Suspense is what gives the reader the "on-edge" feeling. Suspense builds in order to make those final moments, no matter how short, the most memorable moments in the work. The suspense in a story just keeps the reader hooked into reading more until the climax is reached and the thrill and amusement of the suspension finally comes to a close.

The suspense of a story may be the point at which the reader feels more eager to know the end, and what would happen next, it is often referred to in literature as the **climax** or the top of the story; when characters and events reach a high complexity. The suspense in the story is the most important element that was never ignored by writers throughout the ages.

Read more: http://wiki.answers.com/Q/What_is_suspense_in_a_story#ixzz1b4CnKPjK

Suspense is a feeling of uncertainty and anxiety about the outcome of certain actions, most often referring to an audience's perceptions in a dramatic work. Suspense is not exclusive to fiction, though. Suspense may operate in any situation where there is a **lead-up to a big event or dramatic moment, with tension being a primary emotion felt as part of the situation. In the kind of suspense described by film director Alfred Hitchcock, an audience experiences suspense when they expect something bad to happen and have (or believe they have) a superior perspective on events in the drama's hierarchy of knowledge, yet they are powerless to intervene to prevent it from happening. In broader definitions of suspense, this emotion arises when someone is aware of his lack of knowledge about the development of a meaningful event; thus, suspense is a combination of anticipation and uncertainty dealing with the obscurity of the future. In terms of narrative expectations, it may be contrasted with mystery or curiosity and surprise. Suspense could however**

be some small event in a person's life, such as a child anticipating an answer to a request they've made, e.g., "May I get the kitty?". Therefore, suspense comes in many different sizes, big and small.