

Expanded Moment (Where you take a fraction of time, a few seconds, and turn it into an expanded moment by describing everything. To do this you need a moment that is a fraction of time and then you expand it by increasing the paragraphs and amount of writing through description)

In movies, this is where the camera slows down the action and shows the expression on each character's face, a couple of close-up shots of important objects, maybe does a flashback of the character's life of how they got to this point, and then BOOM! Starts again.

Eliza closed her eyes and sighed, a blank expression upon her face. Every birthday she chose the same wish. Every birthday she wished for just one desire. Each time the candles burned before her, Eliza closed her eyes tight and thought deep and hard.

Family.

Eliza wanted a family. Oh, how she loved the St. Mary's clan—the little cuties, the big brothers, the one and only Deanna, the counselors and helpers, the cooks, the volunteers...this home couldn't be any more filled with sincere love.

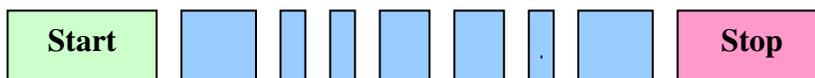
Yet no matter how wonderful Eliza lived at St. Mary's, she always wanted a mom...a caring mom who would walk with her and laugh with her, who would cry with her and comfort her, who would be there always and forever. Eliza longed for a mom who was searching for a sweet, spunky girl to care for. And a dad. Eliza always wished to be "daddy's little girl," to have a fearless father to protect her.

Eliza opened her eyes and peered around the room. Everyone was waiting patiently, anxiously, so she took a deep breath, and *whoosh!* She blew out the candles. Applause and cheering replaced the silence.

Between the closing and opening of the eyes it is a fraction of time. However, in reading this section the reader feels like it is more. It slows down the pace and adds description, a back story, a past, a future, the look of the other characters. THERE MUST BE A CLEAR START and STOP SIGNAL to show that it is actually an extended moment and not just description.

Thanks to Savannah (7th grade, 2004) for use of this *wonderful* excerpt!

<http://ed.ted.com/lessons/slowing-down-time-in-writing-film-aaron-sitze>



Start: jumping off the play structure (Kael= character 1)

Thought: was scared

Setting: warm, sunny, weekend, backyard

Character 2: Soren

Character 3: Asa

More Thought: Soren broken collar bone

Setting/close up (always a great technique)— shoe

Senses: feeling of stomach, blur

Stop: landing in the bark chips

This all happens between the start and stop. You want quite a bit of camera movement and action and character involvement.

The time between the start and stop should be only a few seconds during a crucial part in the story

I climbed my way to the top, paying special attention to get to the highest part—the beam that holds the swings. I paused and then leaned forward to jump. Crouch...jump. It was a scary feeling to jump from so high. I had always wondered if I could and had spent the better part of the whole summer planning this moment. And here it was. Why today? Today was a warm and sunny day, not unlike yesterday, but today was different somehow. Somehow I followed through on jumping. Soren swung happily, singing to himself. Back and forth, back and forth. Asa was in his swing as well, but he was not moving because I am not there to push him. Will I break a bone in this jump? I thought of Soren's broken clavicle and how he broke it just tripping down steps. Here I am jumping off of a ten foot beam. I could see the ground approaching, my stomach tightening, the blur of the world around me although my shoelaces were in striking detail, flapping slowly in the wind, the tips frayed and dirty from months of use. The ground impacted with my shoes a moment later, bark chips spreading aside.