An extra scene

You are going to write an extra scene to the play: the one in which Ken tells his fiancée he does not want her to visit any more. Before you can begin writing the scene you need to think carefully about what type of person Ken would go out with and what they say in the scene. The following activities will help you think about Ken’s fiancée and structure the scene.

1. Write down what you imagine Ken’s fiancée looks like. Think about her age, height and weight, her face, her hair, the way she wears her hair, how much (if any) make up she uses and what type of clothes you imagine she wears.

2. Write down the type of personality that you imagine Ken’s fiancée to have. For example is she chatty, sociable, outgoing, ambitious, happy or the complete opposite? Does she have the same sense of humour as Ken or is she much more serious?

When writing the extra scene you need to decide on six key stages to the meeting between Ken and his fiancée. The scene has to believable: you can not have Ken agreeing to stay with his fiancée when we know that he sends her away. First look at the page where Ken tells Dr Travers about his fiancée and makes the only mention of her in the play: this will give you some ideas about what might have been said. You will have to make up a name for the woman, as we never learn it. There is a suggested first and last point written for you but you can change them if you do not like them.

1. Ken’s fiancée enters the room just after Mr Hill has left. Her first comment is that Ken is not as cheerful as he has been. He smiles at her and says he has something he wants to talk to her about.

    Now add points 2–5

6. Ken repeats his final words to his fiancée and turns his head away. She attempts to speak once more but realising it is useless, picks up her coat and walks away. Ken turns back and, as he watches her leave, begins to cry.
Extra scene – an interim help sheet

1. Look back at the dialogue you have written so far. Does it fit in with the rest of the play? Does Ken speak as he does in the rest of the play? If he doesn’t you need to change it as you can not have him speaking differently in this scene.

2. Have you put stage directions before the first character speaks, to show the actor and actress how to behave and what to do? If you haven’t you need to put these in now.

3. What does Ken’s fiancée say in this part of the scene? Look at your writing again and decide if someone would really behave in this way. Does she seem the type of person that Ken would date? If she isn’t you need to change her character.

4. Remember that we have not seen this character before in the play, although we might assume she has been visiting Ken every day. Ken might tell her some of the things that have recently happened to him. Look back to the page where Ken tells Dr Travers he has told his fiancée not to visit any more and then look back a bit further and note down what happens to Ken in that scene: he might tell his fiancée about it as it might be what has made him decide to tell her not to visit again.

5. Have you remembered to put stage directions in when the characters are speaking to show a pause or a laugh or someone crying etc? If not you need to do this now.

6. Once you have done all the above to the part of the scene you have written already you need to move on and continue writing the rest of your scene. Remember there are six key points that you have decided need to go in to the script: make sure you focus on these points as you write out the dialogue.