The most important themes in literature are sometimes developed in scenes in which a

death or deaths take place. Choose a novel or play and write a well-organized essay in

which you show how a specific death scene helps to illuminate the meaning of the

work as a whole. Avoid mere plot summary.

In the Stranger by Albert Camus a death of an unknown character changes the whole story and who the narrator is, or what the reader perceives of him. The Stranger has two deaths in it, the first one is Meursault's mother. As a reader we know very little about her, beside that she lived in home because he son could no longer take care of her. Meursault was affected very little by this and did not even cry. Usually in times of death or trial a reader learns even more about a person through how they react, but in this story it’s the complete opposite.

The death that changes the work as a whole, is one that Meursault caused himself. Meursault's friend Raymond has mistress who is an Arab, and Raymond did not treat her all that great, so the mistress brother wants to get revenge on Raymond. After already fighting on a beach either that day and injuring Raymond, the Arab and Meursault meet again. Meursault had a gun this time, that he took from Raymond so he would not kill the Arab. Meursault himself used it though and he killed a man.

This changes the story because it make the reader realize that they don’t know the narrator at all, why would he kill someone? He originally had to intentions to kill anyone. Meursault turns himself in and later goes to trial. The trail to come did not bring much insight to this factor either. We learned that he had no regret and does not why he did what he did, or show little emotion to what is going on. This man is a stranger

As I mentioned before, usually in most books a reader knows there character very well by the end. However, in this story it just the opposite; the death made the fact that we don’t know the speaker at all more evident. If anything Meursault becomes even more confusing or unknown than before. Due to the unique plot of this story, it is hard to say other factors that are included into this without giving it away. All I can say is that this man was a stranger.

[Rubric](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6fugCwVMgP_ZnNPQXlWUjZIV1E/view)