

Y8 The Writer's Craft

Why?

This unit is designed to expose you to a wide range of different powerful story openings so that you know what 'gripping the reader' looks like. As we read you will learn and emulate techniques to build your own writer's craft and becoming an amazing writer!

Sentence Structures:

Comma sandwich : a sentence with an embedded clause (which is surrounded by commas).

The sun, which had been absent for days, shone steadily in the sky.

The more, more, more sentence

The more he worried, the more uncomfortable he felt, the more he wanted to leave the room.

The three verb sentence

The monster pushed, crashed, smashed its way through.

Verb -ed opening

*Wracked with fear, Tommy crept slowly towards the door.
Scared for her life, Anna searched frantically for the key.*

Verb -ing opening

Sprinting for her life, the gazelle wove delicately through the long grass.

Three adjectives at the start sentence

Ruthless, dangerous, lethal, the animal leaps for its prey.

Almost, almost, when sentence

I was almost there, almost asleep, when I heard footsteps coming, then the sound of someone breathing close by.

Start with a simile sentence

Like a ghost caught in a fan, he spun round and round on the roundabout.

Triple noun colon sentence

Dirt, oil, grease: the garage was hideously filthy.

Key Concepts:

Writer's Craft: refers to the linguistic and structural choices a writer makes.

Setting: the place and atmosphere in which the narrative takes place.

Characterisation: the way in which characters within the narrative are portrayed.

Language: a writer's choice of words and phrases.

Structure: how the writer chooses to organise the narrative.

Symbolism (colour): certain colours have widespread connotations.

Grammar: rules regarding use of language.

Nature: the phenomena of the physical world.

Structural Features

Foreshadowing	Give hints or clues about future events.
Motif	A repeated image e.g. a feather
Introduction of character	Bringing a new focus to the text in the form of a person/creature
Establishing setting	Giving a detailed description of the setting in order to immerse the reader in the text
Dialogue	Direct speech from the characters – keep it limited and meaningful
In medias res	In the middle of the action.

Vocabulary

Alluring	Powerfully and mysteriously fascinating. (adj)
Trepidation	A feeling of anxiety or fear about the future. (n)
Radiant	Sending out light or glowing brightly. (adj)
Melancholy	A feeling of defeated sadness. (adj/n)
Nefarious	Wicked or criminal (adj)
Exuberant	Full of energy, excitement and cheer. (adj)
Sanctuary	A place of refuge or safety. (n)
Tumultuous	Making an uproar. Loud, chaotic, uncontrolled.(adj)
Precipitously	To do something quickly and without thinking.(adv)
Tentatively	To do something carefully with much caution.(adv)

Recall and Embed...

Language Features

Metaphor	A comparison stating one thing IS another for emphasis e.g. She was a star!
Simile	A comparison using 'like' or 'as'.
Personification	Giving an inanimate object human features.
Pathetic Fallacy	Using the weather to create/reflect the mood.
Sensory imagery	Using all 5 senses to create a full experience.
Emotive Language	Choosing language carefully to evoke emotion.
Colour Imagery	Use a wide range of colour to give specific descriptions.