

Descriptive Techniques:

Simile – comparing something to something else using 'like' or 'as'

Metaphor – saying something IS something else

Alliteration – words begin with the same letter

ONE of the 5 senses – I can smell, see, hear, touch/feel, taste

Personification – giving non-human objects human characteristics

Imagery – where the writer's words help to give the reader a picture in their head

Adjective – describing word

Adverb – describes the 'doing' word

Useful Websites:

thejohnfox.com/2015/07/short-sentences

www.englishhints.com/compound-sentences.html

www.grammar-monster.com/glossary/complex_sentence.htm

Introduction:

Describe an overview of the setting -

Atmosphere – oppressive, eerie, silent

Briefly describe the sky, buildings, floor

Try to convey the mood of the image – sinister

Focus in on key areas -

Describe the buildings

Describe the burnt-out car

Describe the burning fire

Describe the man stood on the large structure

Narrative journey -

Set the scene by conveying the dystopian setting and suggest something bad has happened to cause the destruction.

Useful Verb Synonyms

Argue - quarrel/row/squabble/bicker/fall out/fight/disagree/dispute/have words/tiff

Cried - sobbed/wept/blubbed/bawled/howled/wailed/moaned/snivelled/whinged/whimpered

Fall - trip/stumble/slip/tumble/lose/balance/drop/nose/dive/plummet/plunge/collapse

Jump - leap/bound/spring/hurdle/vault/flinch/fright/jerk/start/recoil

Hit - slap/spank/smack/whack/strike/wallop/punch/thump/belt/clout/beat/batter/pound/pummel/thrash/clobber/assault/attack/bash/crash

laugh - smile/grin/beam/smirk/giggle/chuckle/titter/snigger/cackle/guffaw

Look - watch/observe/stare/gaze/gawp/peer/peep/peek/glimpse/squint

Ran - hurried/raced/sprinted/dashed/darted/bolted/scarpered/scampered/scattered/fled

Said - asked/enquired/answered/replied/expained/described/moaned/groaned/complained/whined/begged/pleaded/retorted/snapped/whispered/murmured/mutter/grumbled

Shout - call/cry out/scream/yell/exclaim/holler/roar/shriek/bawl/bellow

Smell - stink/pong/whiff/stench/niff/reek/hum/odour/scent/fragrance

Steal - take/pinch/whip/pocket/lift/make off with/thieve/rob/shoplift/burgle

Talk - conversation/discussion/debate/gossip/chat/speak/chinwag/natter/jabber/rattle on/rant/babble/prattle

Try - attempt/struggle/strive/aim/seek/endeavour/have a shot/have a stab/have a crack/make an effort

Walk - stroll/saunter/shuffle/hobble/toddle/totter/hike/march/stride/tread/tiptoe/creep/sneak/skulk/strut/swagger/trudge/trek/stagger/stumble

Want - feel like/would like/wish for/yearn for/hanker after/fancy/crave/desire/need/require

Went - left/departed/set-off/started out/head-out/hit the road/took off/travelled/journeyed/visited

- The sinister man is the protagonist. He has a dog that rejoins him towards the end of the narrative, before they go off together.
- Hint that there is hope for the man through his intention to leave this place and head towards somewhere that may have others. He has heard a jumbled message over an old walkie-talkie, maybe calling him towards another town.
- As he heads off there is a distant rumble of thunder. Suddenly it begins to pour down as he limps away with his dog at his side. In the distance there is a slither of sunlight trying to pierce through the heavy sky - suggests there's hope.

Spag

Short Sentences

Used for impact, the short sentence isn't necessarily simple. There is no minimum word requirement – it just has oomph! Remember, you can use one word too.

Compound Sentences

A compound sentence is a sentence that has at least two independent clauses joined by a comma, semicolon or conjunction. An independent clause is a clause that has a subject and verb and forms a complete thought. An example of a compound sentence is, 'This house is too expensive, and that house is too small.'

Complex Sentences

A complex sentence is a sentence with an independent clause and a dependent clause. It is one of the four main types of sentence structures. In a complex sentence, the independent clause shares the main information, and the dependent clause(s) provide details. Complex sentences let us share lots of information with just one sentence.

As far as the eye can see there are silhouettes of huge twisted metal structures; they tower into the murky sky like giants. The floor is littered with debris – bits and pieces of cars, bikes, people. Most of the windows have been smashed in, probably from when the troubles began... when there was widespread looting. The atmosphere is oppressive, like the heavy grey sky; it creeps into wheezing lungs... every breath an effort in this opaque backdrop. Far away in the distance a dog is barking, over and over, the hunger in its voice is evident; it probably hasn't eaten more than a few scavenged scraps in weeks.

Along the street, houses are huddled together, their frontages no longer welcoming. Though most of the windows are now empty voids, there is the odd frame clinging onto tatters of fabrics that were once richly coloured and opulent.

How to...

Step by step:

- Annotate the image with ideas. Draw 3 or 4 boxes within the image that you can 'zoom' in on.
- Create a clear and succinct plan that helps you decide where your narrative is going – it has to have SOMETHING happen to be engaging.
- Try to incorporate some example sentences that use a range of devices.
- Once you are happy with your plan, write your narrative.

Remember...

You can deviate from the plan as long as the ideas are similar. Start in the middle of the action and avoid trying to write a full story!

Show what is happening rather than telling!

They flutter softly in the early evening breeze drawing the eye inwards to the shadows that slowly merge into familiar shapes: table, upturned chair, portrait, sofa.

Partly mounted on the pavement adjoining the houses is the shell of a burnt-out car. In places the metal has warped giving it a grotesque appearance. Scattered across the road is an array of blackened blankets and bags, as well as the remains of a filthy child's seat. The partly charred cover has splashes of blood on it, they trail a path between the faded dinosaurs and volcanoes.

Listening intently, there is a dark figure standing on a large wooden box. Its head, partly hidden by a tattered hood, is cocked over to the left. A sudden flicker of a nearby street light briefly illuminates the figure, highlighting an unruly beard. In his left hand he clutches a large bat, the splintered wood battered, and blood spattered.

Context

- John Steinbeck was born in Salinas, California in 1902. Although his family was wealthy, he was interested in the lives of the farm labourers and spent time working with them. He used his experiences as material for his writing.
- On October 29 1929, millions of dollars were wiped out in the Wall Street Crash. It led to the people losing their life savings and a third of America's population became unemployed.
- A series of droughts in southern mid-western states like Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas led to failed harvests and dried-up land. Farmers were forced to move off their land: they could not repay the bank- loans which had helped buy the farms and had to sell what they owned to pay their debts.
- Racism/sexism were common, especially in Southern states due to economic climate, & history of slavery.

Characters	
George	Frustrated, devoted, a dreamer
Lennie	Childlike, unassuming, physically powerful
Candy	Unloved, an outcast, aging
Curley	Insecure, unmerciful, jealous
Curley's wife	A seductive temptress, objectified, lonely, nameless
Crooks	Cynical, proud, isolated
Slim	Compassionate, wise, respected
Carlson	Heartless, insensitive

Literary techniques		Examples
Metaphor	A figure of speech, which is not literal.	My aunt is a diamond.
Animal imagery	Whereby animal attributes are imposed upon non-animal objects and humans.	"He walked heavily, dragging his feet a little, like a bear drags his paws."
Foreshadowing	To give an indication of what is to come.	We get a hint of the final death through the killing of the mouse and puppy.
Symbolism	The use of symbols to represent ideas or qualities.	Lennie's puppy represents the victory of the strong over the weak. Lennie kills the puppy as he fails to recognise his own strength.

Truth and Contemporary Drama: Essential Vocabulary	
Stanislavski and Naturalism	Study of Stanislavski's legacy of truthful acting and actor training (The System)
Confidence and Self Awareness	Self knowledge and ability to present and take part well
Improvising	Drama created by performers through improvising, experimenting and rehearsing
Imagination	Ability to be creative, intelligent and make things up
Contemporary Theatre	Modern theatre
Motivation	The reason why a character acts or speaks
Exploration	Finding out through play and activities
Dynamics	Using your voice and body expressively for deliberate effect
Empathy	To understand and feel another person's situation and put yourself in their shoes without judgement
Truth and Believability	To be authentic, informed and truthful in your performance
Showing Complex Emotion	To portray a range of complicated emotions truthfully
Rehearsal Games and Skills	Games that help actors develop skills and confidence
Context	The circumstances around a moment or story
What's My Action	Exercise to help actors explore their character
Free Body	Exercise to help actors explore relaxation and imagination
Success With Script	Ways to work effectively with a playscript

Devising and Stage Combat Essential Vocabulary	
Devising from a Stimulus	Making up drama from a given starting point
Non-Naturalistic Theatre	Theatre that breaks the fourth wall and uses multi-role, chorus, and other techniques
Theatre Practitioners	Specialists who have done significant work in drama and theatre
Beginnings	How to make the start of a piece effective
Endings	How to make the endings effective
Safe Stage Combat	Creating fights and physical conflict on stage
Character Development	Ways to develop a role more fully
Choreography	Creating movement sequences with meaning
Verbal Conflict	Conflict in dialogue- characters argue
Tension States	The level of energy and tension in the body
Spatial Awareness	Knowing your stage and your cast's positions
Victim and Aggressor	One attacked or attacking



Form

Form, in poetry, can be understood as the physical structure of the poem: the length of the lines, their rhythms, their system of rhymes and repetition.

- Auto-biographical** A poem about the poet's life and experiences.
- Ballad** A form of poetry often set to music.
- Blank verse** Verse with no rhyme - usually ten syllables
- Dramatic monologue** A character speaks to the reader.
- Epic poem** Tragic/heroic story poems
- First person** Poem written from the poet's view-point or perspective using 'I'.
- Free Verse** No regular rhyme/rhythm
- Lyrical** Emotional and beautiful
- Narrative** A form of poetry that tells a story
- Ode** Lyrical poem often addressed to one person.
- Rhetoric** Persuasive
- Sonnet** 14 line poem often to do with love
- Third person** A detached perspective (someone who isn't directly involved in the action) explains everything that is happening.

Poetry Terminology (Structure)

- Anaphora** A device that consists of repeating a sequence of words at the beginning of neighbouring sentences.
- Caesura** A pause in a line of poetry.
- Enjambment** A thought or sense, phrase or clause, in a line of poetry that does not come to an end at the line break, but moves over to the next line.
- Epistrophe** A device that can be defined as the repetition of phrases or words at the ends of the clauses or sentences.
- Juxtaposition** The act of placing two things side by side for comparison.
- Quatrain** A set of four lines.
- Rhyme** Close similarity in the final sounds of two or more words or lines of writing.
- Stanza** A stanza is a division of four or more lines in a poem.
- Volta** The turning point of a poem.

Terminology (Language)

Techniques are used by writers as an attempt to make the reader think in a certain way. These techniques can be used to intrigue, inspire, persuade or simply convey information to the reader.

- Abstract** An idea rather than a real thing.
- Alliteration** The occurrence of the same sound at the beginning of adjacent or closely connected words.
- Assonance** Resemblance of sound between syllables of nearby words, arising particularly from the rhyming of two or more stressed vowels, but not consonants
- Authentic** Seems genuine or truthful
- Colloquial Language** Informal, casual language
- Emotive Language** Language used to make you feel a specific emotion.
- Euphemism** Alternative words to make something nasty sound less harsh or blunt.
- Extended Metaphor** Refers to a comparison between two unlike things that continues throughout a series of sentences in a paragraph, or lines in a poem.
- Hyperbole** Exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken literally.
- Imagery** Descriptive or figurative language.
- Irony** A device or event in which what appears, on the surface, to be the case, differs radically from what is actually the case.
- Metaphor** A way of comparing by saying something is something else, even though it isn't.
- Mood** Another word for atmosphere.
- Onomatopoeia** The formation of a word from a sound associated with what is named.
- Personification** The attribution of a personal nature or human characteristics to something non-human, or the representation of an abstract quality in human form.
- Plosive** A consonant that is produced by stopping the airflow using the lips, teeth, or palate, followed by a sudden release of air.
- Rhetorical Question** A question that does not have an answer.
- Semantic field** Groups/categories of words
- Sibilance** Sibilance is a more specific type of alliteration that relies on the repetition of soft consonant sounds in words to create a hissing sound in the writing.
- Simile** Comparing something using the words 'like' or 'as'.
- Symbolism** The use of symbols to represent ideas or qualities.
- Tone/Voice** Attitude of a writer toward a subject or audience.

Tier 2 Vocabulary

- Vigorously** - adverb meaning in a way that involves physical strength, effort, or energy
- Flourish** - grow or develop in a healthy or vigorous way
- Dour** - severe, stern or gloomy in manner or appearance
- Contrary** - opposed in direction or meaning
- Tacit** - understood or implied without being stated
- Amiable** - friendly or pleasant
- Haute cuisine** - high quality food
- Despondent** - in low spirits
- Harbinger** - person/thing that announces or signals the approach of another
- Gorge** - eat a large amount greedily
- Charnel-house** - building in which corpses or bones are kept
- Encapsulated** - express the essential features of something
- Perpetuity** - state or quality of living forever
- Massacres** - indiscriminate and brutal slaughter of people
- Bicuspid** - having two cusps or points
- Crevasse** - deep open crack, especially one in a glacier
- Concede** - admit that something is true or valid after first denying or resisting it

Themes/Topics

- Culture
- Racism
- Apartheid
- Genocide
- Belonging
- Segregation
- Identity
- Pride

-Big question: What does it mean to belong to a culture? Why are writers compelled to write about cultural identity?