

BRING YOUR WRITING TO LIFE with STYLISTIC TECHNIQUES

<i>TECHNIQUE</i>	Example
<p>“THE SETUP”: Script Writers love setting up their blockbuster scenes with memorable quotes and catch phrases, you should too. Try setting up your action with dialogue first! This will help to turn your big moment from something that just happened into something memorable!</p>	<p>““Help me, Digory! Help me, please!” But the water was already lapping at Nicholas Beale’s mouth...his final words were muffled as he slipped under a wave.” - <i>Fearless</i></p>
<p>“SLOW MOTION”: When filming a critical scene, directors will often slow down time and zoom in, giving the viewer opportunities to take in all the details they may have otherwise missed. These details transport the viewer into the scenes themselves! So if you can’t freeze time as a writer, try slowing down with Sensory Imagery, vivid details which will allow the reader to sense all of sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and feelings of your plot. Bonus points for figurative language use of similes and metaphors!</p>	<p>“Digory snapped open his sea-green eyes and ran his hand through his thick blue-black hair, the color of a mussel shell.” - <i>Fearless</i></p>
<p>“TIME TRAVELING”: Sometimes you don’t want to slow down time; you need to speed it up. Don’t waste words on the scenes that don’t add value to your plot. Try a time traveling phrase which will fill in the gaps for the reader while getting to the places in the story you really want to develop.</p>	<p>“With their mother long dead, Digory and his nine-year-old brother, Cubby, were sent to live with their Aunt Alice and eleven children.” - <i>Fearless</i></p>
<p>“TRANSITIONAL PHRASES”: Film Directors use cuts, fades, and wipes to transition from scene to scene. In order to ensure that your plot flows fluently you’ll need to simulate this by utilizing transitional phrases. Refer to the toolkit in your LRJ’s for ideas on how to transition for sequence, agreement, contrast, and more!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First... Second... Third... • In the first place... Additionally... Lastly • Consequently, • Clearly then, • Furthermore, • However, • On the other hand, • On the contrary

<p>“SOUND FX”: Sound engineers often return to multimedia adding carefully recorded sound effects to heighten a moment’s intensity. While you can’t turn your writing into a sound bite, you can bring it to life by using onomatopoeia!</p>	<p>“A sudden silence followed, interrupted only by the <i>scritch-scratch, scritch-scratch</i> of a mouse scurrying over the floorboards.” - <i>Fearless</i></p>
<p>“MUSICAL CRESCENDO”: Films often synchronize carefully composed scores or soundtracks to help build anticipation, emotion, and suspense. While you may not have an orchestral crescendo building, careful attention to the sequence and build of the rising action within your plot diagram will lead to a similar effect at your literary climax. Try sprinkling in foreshadowing or clues early in your story that may play a bigger part as your plot thickens.</p>	<p>“It was not in the roar of the gale on a stormy night, nor in the echo of the sea as it crashed over the ship’s starboard bow. It was not in the thunder of the flapping canvas overhead, or in the stunned cry of the ship’s first mate as he was blown off deck and swallowed whole...Digory Beale heard his father’s death in the creaking and cracking of the ship’s floorboards as they were ripped beneath his father’s very feet.” - <i>Fearless</i></p>
<p>“HD TELEVISION”: Multimedia is often captured with high definition technology, bringing the smallest, most special of details right to the viewer’s eyes or the listener’s ears. While you don’t have this equipment while writing, you can achieve the same effect with a little help from a Thesaurus. Try substituting rich, specific vocabulary and dialect into your word choice!</p>	<p>“Early the next morning, a heavy fog rolled in off the ocean, swallowing up Mounts Bay and the small granite house that hugged its harbor. Digory awoke to the familiar smells of boys’ sweat, fish oil, and turf burning in the fire.” - <i>Fearless</i></p>
<p>“CAMERA 1, CAMERA 2”: Film directors often have the benefit of using hundreds of camera angles to piece together the perfect scene. They zoom in for close ups and pull away for perspective. While you won’t have cameras in your writing, you can use multiple points of view to achieve the same effect. Try mixing in 1st & 2nd person dialogue with 3rd person narration!</p>	<p>““Drop your weapons, you blackhearts!” a third man commanded. Digory was overjoyed to see Fishbone, accompanied by three burly young farmers with pitchforks and rakes, charging after the thugs.” - <i>Fearless</i></p>