Suspense toolkit

- hide the threat
- use an abandoned/unwelcoming setting or lull the reader with a cosy setting
- personify the setting to make it sound dangerous – use the weather and/or time of day to create atmosphere
- make your character hear, see, touch, smell or sense something ominous
- surprise the reader with the unexpected
- suggest something is about to happen
- reveal the character's thoughts
- slow the action by using sentences of three
- use powerful description to highlight significant details
- hide other details from the reader and use 'empty' words e.g. *something*
- use short punchy sentences to heighten drama
- use powerful adverbials to shift the time suddenly e.g. *without warning,*