

L.O. Control sentences and paragraphing to develop tension.

Re-cap of last lesson - Exploring different aspects of a scene



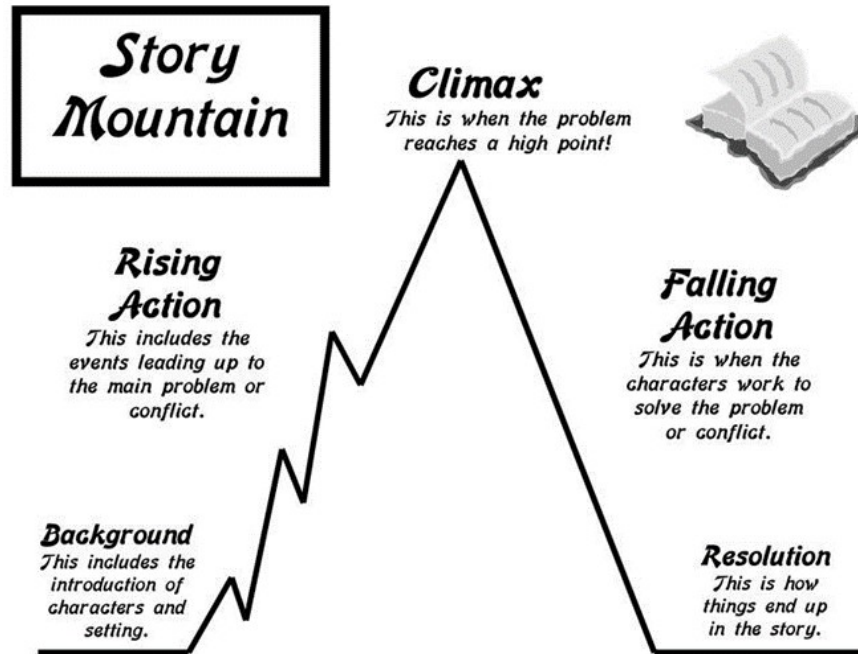
Look at how writers & film directors create tension



Focus on building tension - whole-class practice



Write the next section



Yesterday, we looked at how the tension changes in a story, and how an author considers different aspects of the scene as tension rises.

We saw that an author uses some simple tricks to make the reader feel tense.

Events experienced through the characters' eyes (from the toolkit).

The train was coming! At that moment, his foot slipped and jammed painfully in the sleepers. "Ow!" he howled, desperately tugging at his foot. It was stuck fast. There was no escape.

Nazeem span around and, with his heart pounding, ran to rescue his friend. He pulled with all his might but to no avail. The colour drained from Nazeem's face; this was serious!

Panicking, he scrambled down the track and screamed for help

he spotted Jake's dad screeching to a halt in his red car. Desperately, Nazeem blurted out the problem.

How does the author create increasing levels of tension? What techniques has he used?

Characters react to the action (from the toolkit).

Suddenly, he felt vibrations shudder through his body. The train was coming! At that moment, his foot slipped and jammed painfully in the sleepers. [redacted] at his foot. It was stuck fast. There was no escape.

[redacted] ran to rescue his friend. He pulled with all his might but to no avail. The [redacted] this was serious!

Panicking, he scrambled down the track and screamed for help. As he heard the train rumbling closer, he spotted Jake's dad screeching to a halt in his red car. [redacted]

[redacted]

How does the author create increasing levels of tension? What techniques has he used?

Short, snappy sentences speed up the action.

Suddenly, he felt vibrations shudder through his body. [redacted] at that moment, his foot slipped and jammed painfully in the sleepers. "Ow!" he howled, desperately tugging at his foot. [redacted] [redacted]

Nazeem span around and, with his heart pounding, ran to rescue his friend. He pulled with all his might but to no avail. The colour drained from Nazeem's face [redacted]

Panicking, he scrambled down the track and screamed for help. As he heard the train rumbling closer, he spotted Jake's dad screeching to a halt in his red car. Desperately, Nazeem blurted out the problem.

How does the author create increasing levels of tension? What techniques has he used?

Paragraphs become shorter, as different parts of the scene are explored in quick succession (camera angles!).

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L.O. Control sentences and paragraphing to develop tension.

Today, we will look at how to structure our sentences in order to make our reader feel more anxious about what is happening in our stories. Our focus will be about controlling the length of not only our sentences, but our paragraphs.

Let's have a quick look at how a master of camera angles does it. Nick Park, the director of the 'Wrong Trousers' shows us how it's done in this short clip. You can try counting the number of separate camera angles, but it might be more useful to note the *differences in length* of the shots; some are a little longer with more detail in them, but others are incredible short.

What might these look like as a narrative of this action scene? How would the sentences create such tension, speed and movement?



There it was - the answer to their prayers: a box of spare track.

With lightning speed, Gromit picked up the box and began laying track in front of the speeding carriage. His paws were a blur. Section after section was laid down, curving just in time to avoid the wall and re-directing the train back towards Feathers.

Faster and faster, Gromit guided the train forwards.

Suddenly, as his ears flapped wildly in the air, he heard Wallace behind him shout a warning: up ahead, the dining table and chairs loomed ever closer, their forest of legs presenting an obstacle course that would surely end the pursuit. Disaster!



Let's continue the scene as a class -
remember: **short, snappy sentences** (as well
as longer, descriptive ones; **show characters'**
emotions; show they experience the action;
and use paragraphs to reflect changes of
'camera angle'.



Read through your box-up notes and then it's time to get writing...

<p>... ignoring the bright red warning signs... Suddenly, he felt vibrations shudder through his body. ... It was stuck fast. There was no escape.</p>	<p>Dilemma: MC gets into serious trouble. Setting shown through MC's eyes – further details/ MC reacts to situation & events.</p>	<p>Anna smiles + watches him racing towards her - then looks down to see rusty scaffold pole poking out from base of sand pile on her side: where her brother will land. Eyes widen, screams to brother - too late - he's already reached the slope, laughing wildly, hair streaming + jacket flapping in wind.</p>
<p>... pulled with all his might but to no avail. The colour drained from Nazeem's face ... he spotted Jake's dad screeching to a halt in his red car ... he ran as fast as he could to his son's rescue.</p>	<p>Resolution: Tension continues to build – character reactions/short, snappy sentences for increased action. Solution to problem/ rescue arrives.</p>	<p>Anna shouts again, but voice lost in the wind. Brother's feet spin faster and faster - Anna's heart pounds - feet frozen to the spot - Nathan reaches top of hill - she forces herself to react - lunges towards scaffold pole - he launches himself off the ramp - she heaves at the pole, but no good - Nathan flies through the air - looks down - face pales as he realises what will happen.</p>