

Building Suspense and Tension

Show the passage of time	The clock ticked by slowly... Minutes felt like hours... Moments passed... Shroud of darkness...Fading winter light
Introduce an element of peril	Suddenly... Without warning...Unexpectedly...Before he could stop it...Out of the blue...
Words /the description of the setting which increase the severity of the situation	Jagged rocks like daggers... Untamed wilderness...Felt like the edge of the earth...Boulder- strewn hills...Threatening peak...Dark and ominous landscape...The tempestuous sky...
Description of the weather to sound menacing	Rain pelted...Hail pounded...Sun baked...A dark and menacing sky...Storm clouds thickened...Bitterly cold
Short snappy sentences	Pain surged. The bike jerked. The ground shook. Soil turned to rock. Brakes screeched.
Punctuation for pace	... , ! .
Introduce obstacles	Around the bend, the pathway had completely eroded. Brewing on the horizon, like an angry predator, was a violent storm. Unbeknown to Danny, the front tyre was slowly going down. As he neared the rock in front of him, a mountain lion appeared.
Show not tell	His heart rate quickened...His pulse raced...Adrenalin kicked in...His face distorted and winced...His body shook...He clawed at the ground...He panted...
Powerful language	surged...clawed...groaned...staggered...tumbled...collapsed...plunged... plummeted...crumbled...disintegrated...traversed...
Keep the reader guessing with rhetorical questions	What was that? Was it help? Could it be what he thought it was? Was it possible? What could he do? Would he survive?
Make the character seem more vulnerable by selective language choices	Weak...defenceless...helpless...exposed...in peril...imminent danger...fragile...unprotected...frail...vulnerable...powerless...

TR Resource 8b