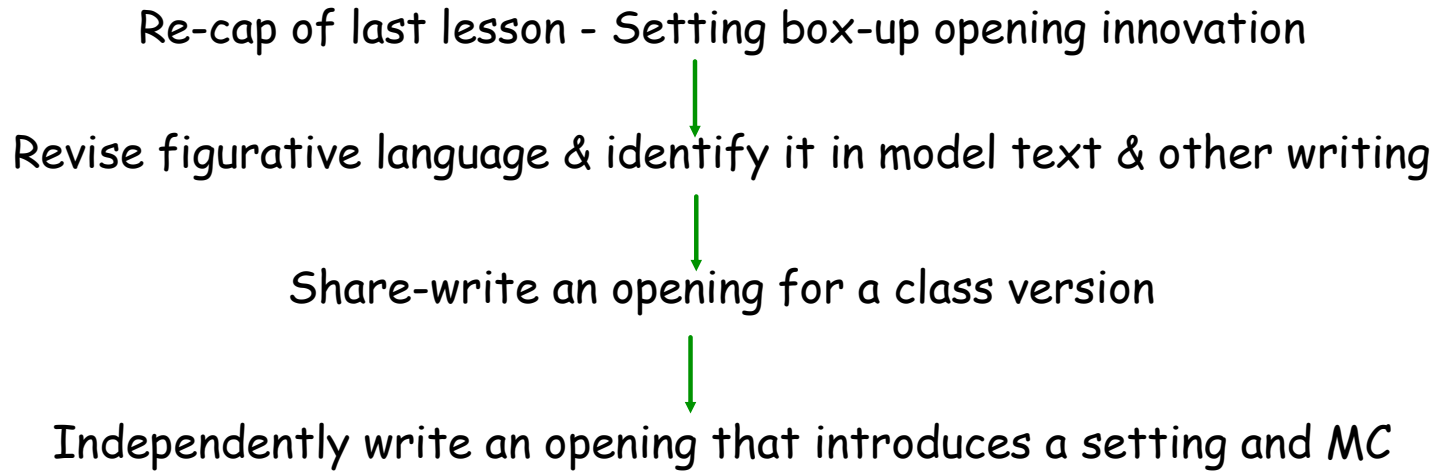


Thursday 11th November

L.O. Use figurative language to set a scene.



In our last lesson, we all made choices about our setting and two possible animals that will threaten and guide our MC. Check your box-up sheet and share your ideas with your partner and the class. Does anyone else have an idea that builds on yours, or maybe makes you want to make any small changes?

Possible setting

Animals that live there (threat or guide)

Savannah

lion, elephant, giraffe, meerkat, antelope,
hyena, weaver bird...

L.O. Use figurative language to set a scene.

- Use **an unwelcoming setting** to unsettle the reader (personification/pathetic fallacy)
- Use **powerful description** to highlight significant details (including sentences of three)

Opening sets an uneasy scene –
personification, metaphor;
unwelcoming setting; powerful
description of significant details,
suggesting time of day & season.

Our first box suits these two tools from our
suspense toolkit nicely, both of which can be 'ticked'
if we use a little **figurative language**. Can you and
your partner remember what the words mean on the
next page?

simile: the comparison of one thing with another thing of a different kind, using *as* or *like*.

E.g. as fast as a cheetah / like a bolt of lightning

metaphor: a direct comparison, that states one thing *is* another

E.g. its teeth were daggers / night blanketed the forest

personification: the technique of giving plants or non-living things animal or human qualities

E.g. mournful pines whispered of death / an angry storm

The following two extracts contain plenty of figurative language. As we read them aloud, see if you can spot them, but don't shout out.

Use the copies in your books to underline and label any example you find with your partner once we have finished reading them together as a class.

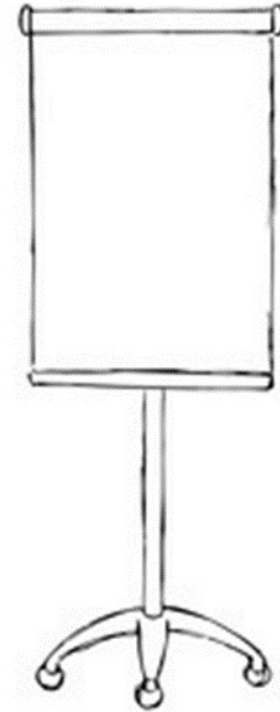
It was late when Torak came to the ice forest. Tall trees loomed over him, jagged with icicles that hung down like strange, sharp teeth. The last thin rays of winter sunlight slipped through the bare branches, casting a maze of ebony shadows on the forest pathway.

He couldn't remember exactly how many days belonged to each month, but any way he reckoned it, the month of September must be almost over. He only needed to look about him. The maple trees circling the clearing flamed scarlet. The birches and aspens glowed yellow, holding a sunlight of their own even on misty days. The woods had become quieter. Jays still screamed at him, and chickadees twittered softly in the trees, but the songbirds had disappeared. Twice he had heard a faraway trumpeting and had seen long straggles of wild geese like trailing smoke high in the air, moving south. In the morning, when he stepped out of the cabin, the frosty air nipped his nose.

From Sign of the Beaver

Using our chosen class setting, and referring loosely to our model text *Ice Forest*, lets **share-write** the beginning of an opening.

We need to use our knowledge of figurative language to make the setting seem very uncomfortable for our main character, but we should also some adverbials to guide our reader around the scene.



What do you like about our shared writing, and why?

Is there anything that you think we should change?



L.O. Use figurative language to set a scene.

Opening sets an uneasy scene –
personification, metaphor;
unwelcoming setting; powerful
description of significant details,
suggesting time of day & season.

OK, now it's time to write our openings - introduce the MC and set the scene as somewhere that they are very uncomfortable. No action needed, just quality description and some adverbials.