

Techniques for successful descriptive writing

Here are the devices that will help children to create engaging, interesting writing.

Onomatopoeia

This is a word that phonetically imitates, resembles or suggests the source of the sound it describes.

“Crunch, crunch, crunch his feet sank into the snow” The Snowy Day by Ezra John Keats

Alliteration

This device is the repeated sound of the first consonant in a series of multiple words or the repetition of the same sounds or the same kinds of sounds at the beginning of words or in stressed syllables of a phrase.

“Alice’s fat aunt ate apples and acorns around August” Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll

Repetition

This is the repeating of a word or phrase within a sentence for emphasis.

“Behind him there were other figures, even more shadowy than he was, even more silent” The Amber Spyglass by Philip Pullman

Simile

This device compares two things through the explicit use of connecting words such as ‘like’, ‘as’, ‘so’ and ‘than’.

“A giant of a man was standing in the doorway. His face was almost completely hidden by a long shaggy mane of hair and a wild, tangled beard, but you could make out his eyes glinting like black beetles under all the hair.” Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone by J. K. Rowling

Metaphor

A metaphor is used to make a strong image in the reader’s head by describing a noun as something unlikely.

“He got so angry that his anger became a stormcloud exploding thunder and lightning and hailstones.” Angry Arthur by Hiawyn Oram

Personification

This device is when you give an object a human characteristic, e.g. physical movements, emotions, sensations.

“In the space of thirty seconds, the atmosphere in the tiny room had changed completely and now it was vibrating with awkwardness and secrets.” Matilda by Roald Dahl

