



**WRITING
TOOLBOX**

GENERAL TOOLS

PREPOSITIONS

Words that introduce phrases which always contain either a noun or a pronoun.

About	Before	Except	On	Under
Above	Behind	For	Onto	Underneath
According to	Below	From	Opposite	Unlike
Across	Because of	In	Out	Until
After	Beneath	Inside	Outside	Up
Against	Beside	Instead	Over	Upon
Along	Between	Into	Past	With
Amid	Beyond	Like	Since	Within
Among	By	Minus	Through	Without
Around	Despite	Near	Throughout	
Aside from	Down	Of	To	
At	During	Off	Toward	

CLAUSAL STARTERS

When	Since
Where	Although
While	If
As	

SIMILE (AS/LIKE/THAN)

- “Light as a feather.”
- “A road like brown ribbon.”
- “Happy as a lark.”
- “She is prettier than a spring morning”.

METAPHOR (Something is something else)

- “A heart of stone.”
- “The metal sky.”
- “A flaming rose.”
- “Sand for hair.”
- “The glass ocean.”

THE BANNED LIST

SAID Exclaim Assert Cried out Screech Intone	LIKE Savor Crave Taste Luxuriate Relish Bask	GO Rush Journey Tour Trek Advance Depart Abscond	EAT Devour Ingest Consume Masticate Gnaw
GET Obtain Acquire Capture Solicit Seize	NICE Agreeable Decorous Refined Fitting Gentle Dainty	PRETTY Beautiful Magnificent Alluring Gorgeous Comely	
SEE Observe Perceive Distinguish Notice	BIG Capacious Immense Gargantuan Enormous	HAPPY Content Pleased Glad Joyful	

ADVERBS

Arrogantly	Essentially	Innocently	Predictably	Surely
Abnormally	Evenly	Intensely	Presumably	Surprisingly
Absentmindedly	Eventually	Interestingly	Primarily	Suspiciously
Absolutely	Evidently	Inwardly	Probably	Sympathetically
Anxiously	Exactly	Keenly	Proudly	Tearfully
Assuredly	Extremely	Kindheartedly	Quaintly	Teasingly
Badly	Fairly	Kindly	Quickly	Tenderly
Bashfully	Famously	Knowing	Quietly	Tentatively
Beautifully	Fervently	Lazily	Quizzically	Thankfully
Bitterly	Finally	Lightheartedly	Rapidly	Thoughtfully
Bravely	Flippantly	Lightly	Readily	Tightly
Brilliantly	Foolishly	Limply	Reassuringly	Tragically
Briskly	Fortunately	Longingly	Recklessly	Tremendously
Broadly	Frankly	Loudly	Regularly	Triumphantly
Calmly	Freely	Luckily	Relatively	Undeniably
Carefully	Frequently	Madly	Reluctantly	Uneasily
Certainly	Frightfully	Magically	Repeatedly	Unusually
Charmingly	Fundamentally	Meaningfully	Reproachfully	Unusually
Clearly	Furiously	Mechanically	Righteously	Utterly
Closely	Generally	Miserably	Roughly	Vastly
Coaxingly	Generously	Mockingly	Sadly	Violently
Commonly	Gently	Modestly	Searching	Virtually
Completely	Gradually	Murderously	Sedately	Vividly
Constantly	Grandly	Musically	Seriously	Warmly
Continually	Gratefully	Naively	Sharply	Wholeheartedly
Continuously	Greatly	Naturally	Sheepishly	Wildly
Coolly	Greedily	Naughtily	Significantly	Willfully
Correctly	Grimly	Nearly	Silently	Willingly
Crossly	Guilty	Neatly	Slowly	Wisely
Curiously	Haphazardly	Noiselessly	Slyly	Wishfully
Dearly	Happily	Painfully	Softly	Wistfully
Deceivingly	Harshly	Patiently	Solidly	Woefully
Delightfully	Helpfully	Physically	Sorrowfully	Wonderfully
Determinedly	Heroically	Plainly	Sourly	Yearningly
Diligently	Hideously	Playfully	Sternly	Youthfully
Distinctly	Highly	Positively	Strictly	
Dreamily	Hopelessly	Possibly	Strongly	
Enormously	Immediately	Potentially	Stupidly	
Entirely	Immensely	Powerfully	Substantially	
Especially	Increasingly		Successfully	
			Suddenly	
				Zealously
				Zigzaggingly

“ING” WORDS

Acting	Gossiping	Maintaining	Scheming
Accepting	Groaning	Managing	Slowing
Arguing	Guaranteeing	Marching	Smiling
Asking		Marveling	Staggering
Assuming	Hanging		
	Helping	Noting	Thinking
Badgering	Hurting		Trying
Barging		Objecting	
Belittling	Ignoring	Offending	Urging
	Illuminating	Offering	
Calling	Implementing	Opening	Vanishing
Catching	Increasing	Operating	Vaulting
Clasping	Inquiring	Ordering	Visualizing
Clinging	Insuring	Outrunning	Vowing
Devastating	Jeopardizing	Panicking	Waiting
Discovering	Jinxing	Piling	Walking
Dodging	Judging	Planting	Wanting
Drilling	Jumping	Plotting	Washing
		Preparing	Wishing
Eliminating	Kayaking	Producing	
Ending	Keeping	Purchasing	Yawning
Enlarging	Knocking		Yelling
Exciting		Quarreling	
Extending		Quitting	
Eyeing			
	Lacking	Racing	
Falling	Landing	Reacting	
Flashing	Lasting	Realizing	
Flinging	Laughing	Recording	
Flocking	Leading	Reducing	
Folding	Lending	Roaming	
Frustrating	Lifting	Running	

“ED” WORDS

Abused	Feared	Mesmerized	Tainted
Accepted	Flooded	Mocked	Taunted
Accused	Followed		Terrorized
Angered	Fooled	Ordered	Touched
Assured	Fragmented		Trapped
Appreciated	Frightened	Perplexed	Traumatized
Authorized		Presumed	Trusted
	Galvanized	Produced	
Badgered	Gnarled	Protected	Unaffected
Banned	Goaded	Provoked	Unannounced
Berated	Governed	Punished	Urged
Buoyed	Guided		
Buffeted		Questioned	Validated
Bumped	Handled		Victimized
	Hardened	Reduced	Vindicated
Calmed	Harmed	Rejected	
Covered	Honored	Repelled	Warned
Coveted		Reproached	Warped
Created	Ignored	Resented	Watched
Credited	Infused	Rested	Wasted
Crowded	Injured		Winded
	Interested	Scared	Wounded
Denied	Intertwined	Shackled	Wrecked
Depressed	Inundated	Shattered	Wronged
Devastated		Shocked	
Disgusted	Jaded	Stalked	
Disheartened	Jeopardized	Startled	
Dissatisfied	Jinxed	Starved	
	Judged	Steadied	
Eliminated		Stumped	
Exasperated	Languished	Stunted	
Excited	Lifted	Stupefied	
Exhausted	Linked	Stymied	
Exhilarated	Locked	Supported	
Exonerated		Surprised	
Extended			

SAID IS DEAD!!!

Accused	Cautioned	Echoed	Indicated	Objected	Rehearsed
Acknowledged	Challenged	Emitted	Inferred	Observed	Reiterated
Added	Chanted	Emphasized	Informed	Ordered	Rejoiced
Addressed	Charged	Ended	Inquired	Outlined	Related
Advised	Chatted	Enunciated	Inserted		Remarked
Advocated	Chattered	Estimated	Insinuated	Panted	Remembered
Affirmed	Cheered	Exclaimed	Insisted	Paraphrased	Reminded
Agreed	Chided	Explained	Instructed	Persisted	Reminisced
Alleged	Chimed in	Exploded	Interjected	Persuaded	Renounced
Allowed	Chirped	Expounded	Interpreted	Petitioned	Repeated
Announced	Chocked	Expressed	Interrogated	Piped	Replied
Answering	Chuckled		Interrupted	Pleaded	Reported
Antagonized	Claimed	Fabricated	Intoned	Pointed out	Requested
Apologized	Clamored	Fibbed	Intonated	Pouted	Responded
Appealed	Clarified	Fitted in	Invited	Praised	Restated
Applauded	Coaxed	Finished	Iterated	Prayed	Resumed
Argued	Commanded	Fired		Preached	Retorted
Articulated	Complained	Flattered	Jeered	Presented	Retracted
Asserted	Compiled	Fretted	Jested	Presumed	Revealed
Assured	Complimented	Fumed	Joined in	Pretended	Reviewed
Avowed	Concluded	Fussed	Joked	Proclaimed	Ridiculed
	Clucked		Joshed	Prodded	Roared
	Consented	Gabbed		Promised	Rumored
Babbled	Continued	Gasped	Kidded	Prompted	
Badgered	Contributed	Gibed		Pronounced	Sang
Bantered	Cooed	Giggled	Lamented	Proposed	Scoffed
Barked	Corrected	Gloated	Lashed out	Propositioned	Scolded
Bawled	Cracked	Goaded	Laughed	Protested	Scorned
Bayed	Cried out	Gossiped	Lied	Puffed	Screamed
Beckoned	Criticized	Grieved	Lisped	Purred	Screeched
Began	Croaked	Groaned			Shouted
Begged	Crowed	Growled	Maintained	Quacked	Shrieked
Bellowed		Grumbled	Mentioned	Quarreled	Shuddered
Bemoaned	Decided	Grunted	Meowed	Queried	Sighed
Beseached	Declared	Guessed	Mewed	Questioned	Smarted off
Blubbered	Defined	Gulped	Mimicked	Quibbled	Snapped
Bluffed	Demanded	Gurgled	Mispronounced	Quipped	Snarled
Blundered	Demonstrated		Misquoted	Quizzed	Sneered
Blurted out	Denied	Hacked	Moaned	Quoted	Snipped
Blustered	Described	Hammered	Mocked		Snored
Boomed	Dictated	Harped on	Mourned	Raged	Snorted
Bragged	Directed	Hedged	Mumbled	Rasped	Spat
Broadcasted	Disagreed	Heralded	Mused	Reasoned	Specified
Brooded	Discerned	Hinted	Muttered	Recalled	Speculated
Bubbled	Disclosed	Hissed		Recapitulated	Sputtered
Burped	Disputed	Howled	Nagged	Recited	Squawked
Butt in	Divulged	Hypothesized	Named	Recommended	Streaked
Buzzed	Drawled		Narrated	Recounted	Stammered
	Droned	Implied	Nixed	Reflected	Stated
Cajoled		Implored	Noted	Rehashed	Stressed
Called					

TRANSITIONS & LINKING WORDS

Words that can be used to ADD INFORMATION:

Again	For example	Equally important
Also	Furthermore	Finally
Another	For instance	As well
And	Moreover	Next
Additionally	Besides	Likewise
Along with	In addition	

Words that can be used to COMPARE THINGS (show similarities):

In the same way	Likewise	As
Similarly	Like	also

Words that can be used to CONTRAST THINGS (show differences):

And yet	Yet	On the contrary
Although	At the same time	After all
Contrast to this	However	Otherwise
But	Still	Nevertheless

Words that can be used to EMPHASIZE A POINT:

Again	For this reason	Truly
To repeat	To emphasize	In fact

Words that can be used to CONCLUDE or SUMMARIZE:

As a result	Finally	In conclusion
To sum up	Therefore	Last
In summary	Consequently	

Words that can be used to SHOW TIME:

About	After	Finally
Then	Next	Soon
Later	Meanwhile	Today
Tomorrow	Second	Third
Until	At	Before
First	Afterward	During

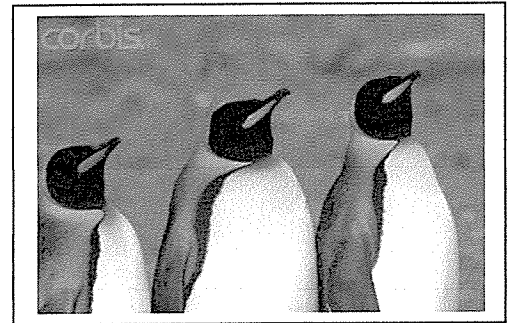
SMILEY FACE TRICKS

1. **Magic 3** – Three parallel groups of words, usually separated by commas, that create a poetic rhythm or add support for a point, especially when the three word groups have their own modifiers.

Mary likes **hiking, swimming, and bicycling**.

Good writing requires you to **plan** outlines, **write** several drafts, and **revise** your work.

The production manager was asked to write his report **quickly, accurately, and thoroughly**.



The salesman expected **that he would present** his product at the meeting, **that there would be** time for him to show his slide presentation, and **that prospective buyers would ask** him questions.

Dave had his own route and his mother afforded him this independence. It took him **down dirt lanes, through vacant lots** and **along residential streets**. It was a route designed to pass the Pattersons' woodshed – where kids would gather every morning to **talk** and **scuffle** and sometimes **smoke**, if someone had cigarettes.

(“School Days” by Stuart McLean)

2. **Figurative Language** – Non-literal comparisons- such as similes, metaphors, and personification – add “spice” to writing and can help paint a more vivid picture for the reader.

I looked up at the highway. In the mist, I could make out the truck, like a big, hulking shipwreck, the front cab bent as if its neck had been snapped. Steam rose from the hood. One headlamp was still working, casting a lonely beam down the muddy hill that made twinkling diamonds out of the shattered glass.

(*For One More Day* by Mitch Albom)

The morning walks caught Dave by surprise. On Tuesday night he told Morley that walking to the school yard with his boy was like walking through a house of mirrors. You bump up against reflections of your past in the most unexpected places. You are hurrying your child to school and you turn a corner and look across the street and see a seven-year-old version of yourself standing on the opposite corner.

(“School Days” by Stuart McLean)

He had never felt anything like this sneaker ever before. The shoe was both tight and loose at the same time. Firm but spongy. As strong as steel, yet as soft as a sigh.

(“Sam the Athlete” by Stuart McLean)

“Out of hand?” said an icy Nancy Cassidy, the school principal, as Dave sat across from her desk the next morning. “It was like a prison riot.” Nancy Cassidy had always struck Dave as a gentle soul. Now she was reprimanding him as if he were a child.

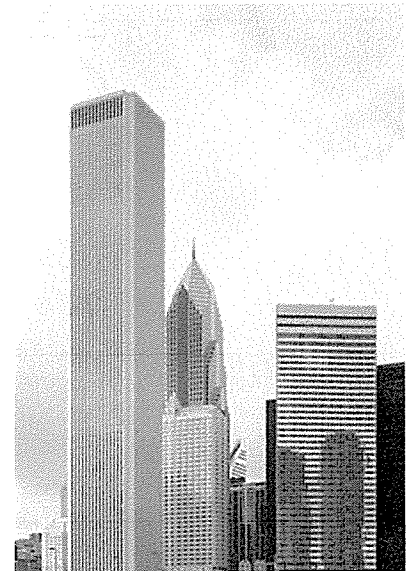
(“School Days” by Stuart McLean)

They drove on, and over time he grew more comfortable with the stranger. They passed an abandoned farm, the house gray and paintless, windows black like empty eye sockets. The wind had ripped the shingles from the roof. The barn leaned to one side, threatening to collapse. Matthew knew the drought had killed this place. The drought was a monster made of dust – it had dried up the crops so the cows couldn’t eat and had dried away the folks who had once lived there. His mom worked hard to keep that same dust out of their house, stuffing rags in the bottom of the door and along the windowsills. Despite her efforts, the grit always found its way into the cupboards, the beds, and their food.

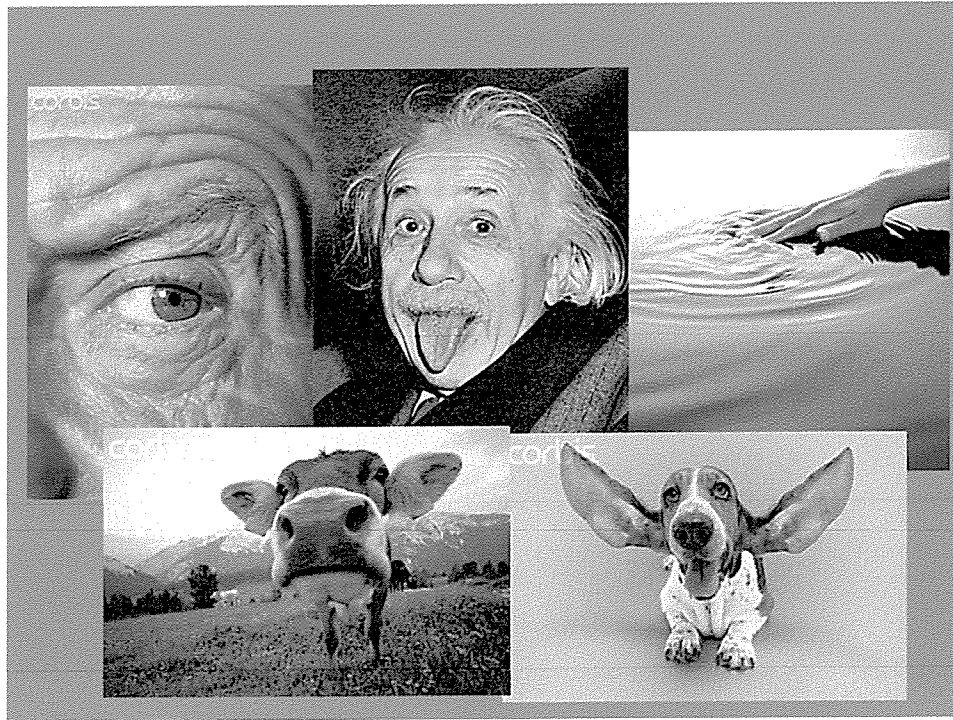
(*Dust* by Arthur Slade)



**My friend is a tall building
stretching to the sky.**



3. **Specific Details for Effect** – Instead of general, vague descriptions, specific sensory details help the reader visualize the person, place, thing, or idea that you are describing.



Panic.

You open your mouth. Open it so wide your jaws creak. You order your lungs to draw air, NOW, you need air, need it NOW. But your airways ignore you. They collapse, tighten, squeeze, and suddenly you're breathing through a drinking straw. Your mouth closes and your lips purse and all you can manage is a strangled croak. Your hands wriggle and shake. Somewhere a dam has cracked open and a flood of cold sweat spills, drenches your body. You want to scream. You would if you could. But you have to breathe to scream.

(The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini)

The crowd parted and there stood Robert's parents, unmoving as though they'd been turned to stone. His father was a tall, wiry man with his sleeves rolled up, his face prematurely wrinkled by the sun and from squinting to keep out the dust. His eyes were red-rimmed, tired. Robert's mother was also tall, her body a frail vessel for her spirit, her clothing plain gray. They looked to be in a trance.

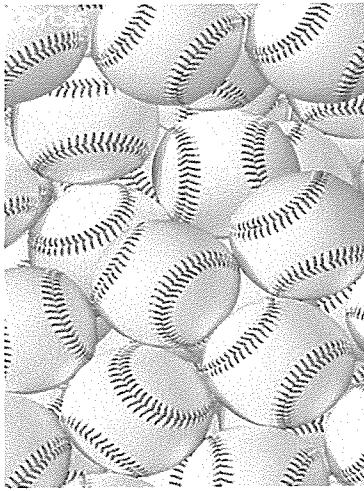
The sergeant spoke their names, breaking the spell. They shuffled like zombies toward Robert. He was frightened by their slowness.

(Dust by Arthur Slade)

4. **Repetition for Effect** – Writers often repeat specially chosen words or phrases to make a point, to stress certain ideas for the reader.

The curious thing was, I never thought of Hassan and me as friends either. Not in the usual sense, anyhow. **Never mind that** we taught each other to ride a bicycle with no hands, or to build a fully functional homemade camera out of a cardboard box. **Never mind that** we spent entire winters flying kites, running kites. **Never mind that** to me, the face of Afghanistan is that of a boy with a thin-boned frame, a shaved head, and low-set ears, a boy with a Chinese doll face perpetually lit by a harelicked smile.

(The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini)



The prairie had marked Matthew as one of its own. **He understood** the connection between himself and the land, **understood that he belonged there; when the wind blew, when the rain dotted his face, when the snow fell, he belonged. When the sun darkened** his skin, he knew the invisible rays were also working on the field of wheat beside him.

(Dust by Arthur Slade)

If my mother said it, I believed it.

She wasn't easy on me, don't get me wrong. **She** smacked me. **She** scolded me. **She** punished me. But **she** loved me. **She** really did. **She** loved me falling off a swing set. **She** loved me stepping on her floors with muddy shoes. **She** loved me through vomit and snot and bloody knees. **She** loved me coming and going, at my worst and at my best. **She** had a bottomless well of love for me.

Her only flaw was that **she** didn't make **me** work for it.

(For One More Day by Mitch Albom)



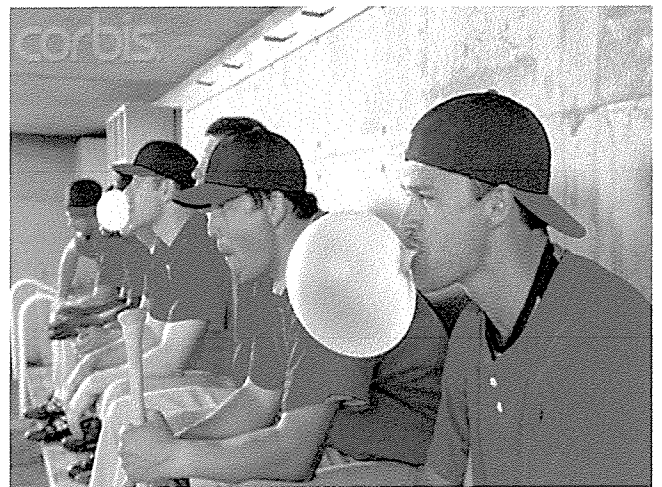
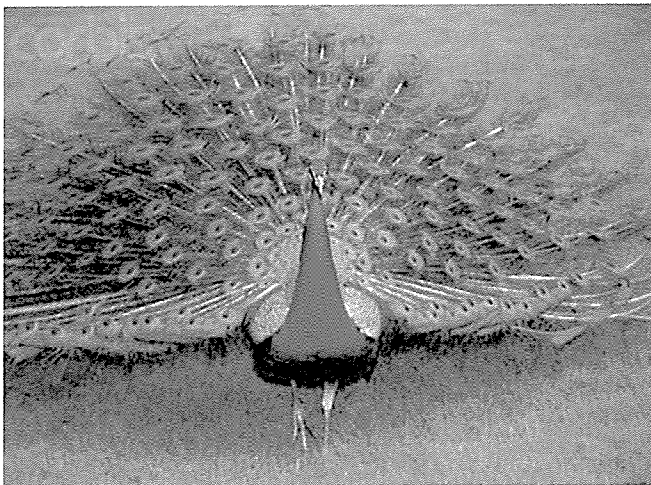
5. **Expanded Moment** – instead of “speeding” past a moment, writers often emphasize it by expanding” the actions.

Suddenly, two huge lights blinded me, like two giant suns. Then a truck horn blasted, then a jolting smash, then my car flew over an embankment and landed hard, thumping downhill. There was glass everywhere and beer cans bouncing around and I grabbed wildly at the steering wheel and the car jerked backward, flipping me onto my stomach. I somehow found the door handle and yanked it hard, and I remember flashes of black sky and green weeds and a sound like thunder and something high and solid crashing down.

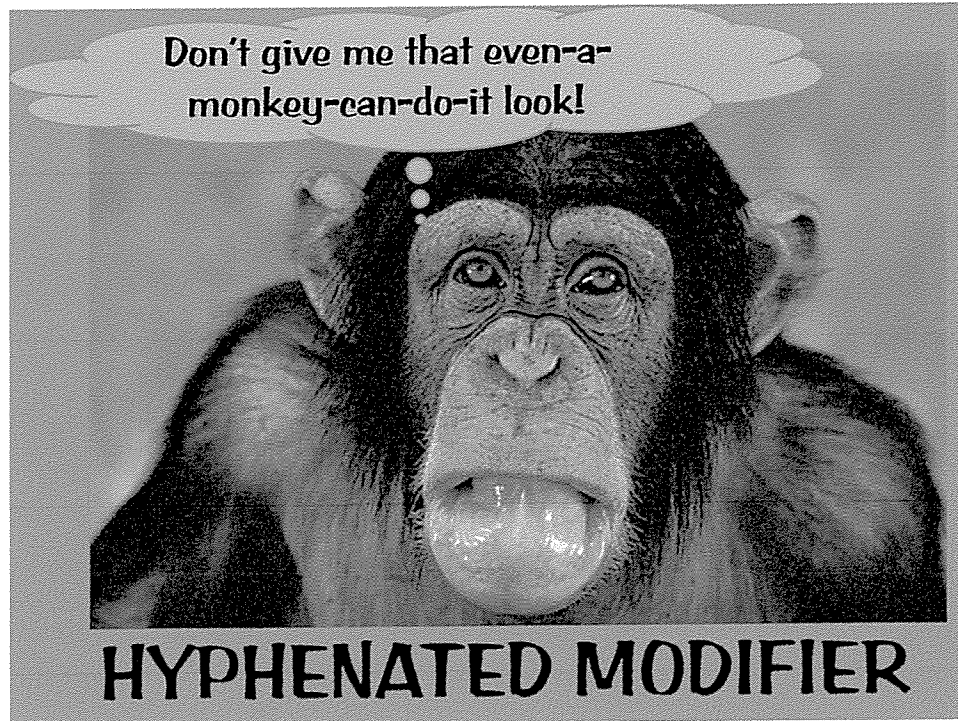
(*For One More Day* by Mitch Albom)

It was a good season for the team, and a great season for Sam. In the last game of the year, the championship game, with five minutes to play and Sam’s team ahead by one goal, a shot came in from the wing with “goal” written all over it. It came low and hard and fast, heading for the far corner, and Sam, who was out of position, started to run. He ran and ran, and then, when he saw that he had run out of time, he launched himself at the ball, flying through the air, his blocker hand stretched out. This is the moment he will remember for the rest of his life: the moment in grade seven when he ran across the goal and jumped and fell, head over heels, and lifted his head to see *his* team cheering his save.

(“Sam the Athlete” by Stuart McLean)



6. **Hyphenated Modifiers** – Sometimes a new way of saying something can make all the difference; hyphenated adjectives often cause the reader to “sit up and take notice”.

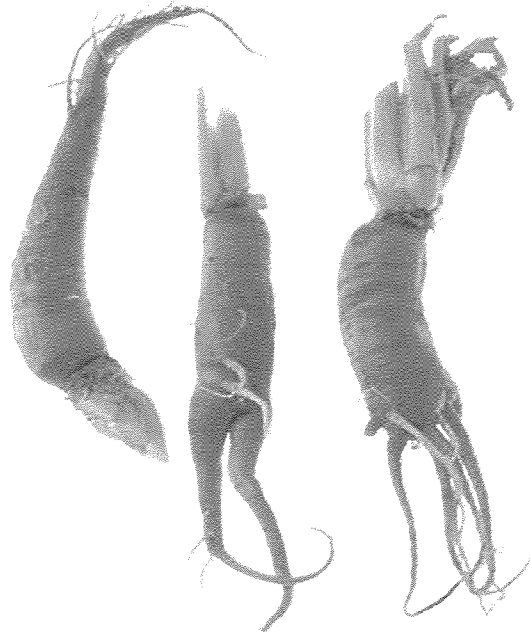


Little did I know that when Mom asked if I liked the new neighborhood in town that that one innocent question would be the beginning of the destruction of my life. I was going to choose “yes” as my answer, but I had one of **those I-don't-want-to-lose-my-friends** looks.

She's got this blonde hair, with dark highlights, parted in the middle, down past her shoulders, and straight as a preacher. She's got big green eyes that all guys admire and all girls envy, and this **I'm-so-beautiful-and-I-know-it** body, you know, like every other super model.

The cell phone bell pierces the silence of the hallway and Sheila, the stern school nurse, rolls her eyes as I answer. She mutters in her **I'm-holier-than-thou-and-my-shoes-don't-squeak** voice, “Oh, Jeez.”

7. **Humour** – Professional writers know the value of laughter; even subtle humour can help turn a “boring” paper into one that can raise someone’s spirit.



Because Dave was Margaret MacNeal’s son, every year, on the first day of school, he would have to endure what every other kid in the Big Narrows Elementary School still remembers and cherishes as Miss MacNeal’s greatest moment. Because every year on the first day of school the entire student body – all sixty of them – was assembled in the basement lunchroom and Dave’s mother climbed onto one of the six picnic tables they kept down there, and to the great amazement of the kids in kindergarten who had never seen this before, and to everyone else’s delight, Miss MacNeal would burp the alphabet from A to Z.

(“School Days” by Stuart McLean)

8. Full-Circle Ending – Sometimes students need a special ending, one that effectively “wraps up” the piece. One “trick” is to repeat a phrase from the beginning of the piece.

Do I seem mad to you?

I'm not mad!

I'm furious!

Does my face seem as red as an apple?

It's not! My face is a fire!

The divorce was taking my heart and
Crushing it into oblivion.

My tears were a flowing stream

My brain an exploding bomb.

My dad had this

I-don't-care-about-my-family-I'm-gonna-get-wasted kind of look,

But do I seem mad?

He used to have my sister and me in his back pocket,

But now he has his new I-like-you-right-now-but-when-we-get-serious

I'll-stab-you-in-the-back “perfect” girlfriend there instead

But do I seem mad?

Dad just got married.

They had been dating for about an hour and he popped the question. But do I seem mad?

I just sit there with my fake smile

While she puts on the biggest show and says,

“Oh, I love your kids, they're so cute” and fake smiles back at me.

But do I seem mad?

My dad used to be my best friend and protector of my childhood.

Now he is my enemy.

But do I seem mad?

His new wife has me in her death-grip,

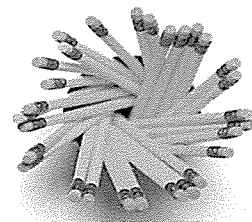
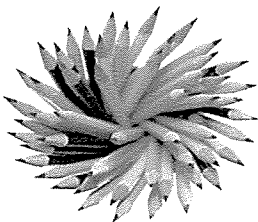
Waiting for me to do something bad

She is a cobra waiting to strike.

But do I seem mad?

I'm not mad!

I'm furious!



Sample Character Traits

able	demanding	hopeless	restless
active	dependable	humorous	rich
adventurous	depressed	ignorant	rough
affectionate	determined	imaginative	rowdy
afraid	discouraged	impatient	rude
alert	dishonest	impolite	sad
ambitious	disrespectful	inconsiderate	safe
angry	doubtful	independent	satisfied
annoyed	dull	industrious	scared
anxious	dutiful	innocent	secretive
apologetic	eager	intelligent	selfish
arrogant	easygoing	jealous	serious
attentive	efficient	kindly	sharp
average	embarrassed	lazy	short
bad	encouraging	leader	shy
blue	energetic	lively	silly
bold	evil	lonely	skillful
bored	excited	loving	sly
bossy	expert	loyal	smart
brainy	fair	lucky	sneaky
brave	faithful	mature	sorry
bright	fearless	mean	spoiled
brilliant	fierce	messy	stingy
busy	foolish	miserable	strange
calm	fortunate	mysterious	strict
careful	foul	naughty	stubborn
careless	fresh	nervous	sweet
cautious	friendly	nice	talented
charming	frustrated	noisy	tall
cheerful	funny	obedient	thankful
childish	gentle	obnoxious	thoughtful
clever	giving	old	thoughtless
clumsy	glamorous	peaceful	tired
coarse	gloomy	picky	tolerant
concerned	good	pleasant	touchy
confident	graceful	polite	trusting
confused	grateful	poor	trustworthy
considerate	greedy	popular	unfriendly
cooperative	grouchy	positive	unhappy
courageous	grumpy	precise	upset
cowardly	guilty	proper	useful
cross	happy	proud	warm
cruel	harsh	quick	weak
curious	hateful	quiet	wicked
dangerous	healthy	rational	wise
daring	helpful	reliable	worried
dark	honest	religious	wrong
decisive	hopeful	responsible	young

Resume Action Verbs

Achieved	Coordinated	Influenced	Promoted
Addressed	Corresponded	Informed	Publicized
Advocated	Counseled	Initiated	Recommended
Allocated	Created	Inspected	Recruited
Analyzed	Critiqued	Instituted	Reduced
Anticipated	Customized	Integrated	Referred
Appraised	Delegated	Interpreted	Rehabilitated
Approved	Demonstrated	Interviewed	Remolded
Arbitrated	Designed	Introduced	Repaired
Arranged	Developed	Invented	Reported
Assembled	Diagnosed	Investigated	Represented
Assessed	Directed	Lectured	Researched
Attained	Drafted	Led	Resolved
Audited	Edited	Listened	Review
Authored	Engineered	Litigated	Reviewed
Balanced	Enlisted	Maintained	Revitalized
Budgeted	Established	Marketed	Scheduled
Built	Evaluated	Mediated	Shaped
Calculated	Examined	Moderated	Solved
Catalogued	Executed	Motivated	Spearheaded
Chaired	Expedited	Negotiated	Spoke
Clarified	Fabricated	Operated	Strengthened
Classified	Facilitated	Organized	Summarized
Coached	Forecasted	Originated	Supervised
Collaborated	Formulated	Overhauled	Systematized
Collected	Founded	Oversaw	Taught
Compiled	Generated	Performed	Trained
Computed	Guided	Persuaded	Translated
Conceptualized	Handled	Pioneered	Upgrades
Consolidated	Identified	Planned	Wrote
Consulted	Illustrated	Presented	
Contracted	Implemented	Prioritized	
Convinced	Improved	Produced	
	Increased	Programmed	
		Projected	

Mood words

POSITIVE MOOD WORDS

amused	jubilant
awed	liberating
bouncy	light-hearted
calm	loving
cheerful	mellow
chipper	nostalgic
confident	optimistic
contemplative	passionate
content	peaceful
determined	playful
dignified	pleased
dreamy	refreshed
ecstatic	rejuvenated
empowered	relaxed
energetic	relieved
enlightened	satiated
enthralled	satisfied
excited	sentimental
exhilarated	silly
flirty	surprised
giddy	sympathetic
grateful	thankful
harmonious	thoughtful
hopeful	touched
hyper	trustful
idyllic	vivacious
joyous	warm
	welcoming

NEGATIVE MOOD WORDS

aggravated	insidious
annoyed	intimidated
anxious	irate
apathetic	irritated
apprehensive	jealous
barren	lethargic
brooding	lonely
cold	melancholic
confining	merciless
confused	moody
cranky	morose
crushed	nauseated
cynical	nervous
depressed	nightmarish
desolate	numb
disappointed	overwhelmed
discontented	painful
distressed	pensive
drained	pessimistic
dreary	predatory
embarrassed	rejected
enraged	restless
envious	scared
exhausted	serious
fatalistic	sick
foreboding	somber
frustrated	stressed
futile	suspenseful
gloomy	tense
grumpy	terrifying
haunting	threatening
heartbroken	uncomfortable
hopeless	vengeful
hostile	violent
indifferent	worried
infuriated	

Tone and Mood

You might think about the difference between mood and tone as follows: Mood as the attitude of the author toward the subject, and Tone as the attitude of the author toward the audience. Usually. Sometimes there is a fine line, and Tone can be an attitude toward the implied audience and subject both.

Tone - the writer's attitude toward the audience; a writer's tone can be serious, sarcastic, tongue-in-cheek, solemn, objective, satirical, solemn, wicked, etc.

- Tone is the author's (not necessarily your narrator's) overall outlook or attitude toward the given audience. Ironic, matter-of-fact, bemused, outraged, curiously respectful, disdainful - how does he/she feel about the fragment of life displayed in the story? The curious thing about tone is that it may *change*, but it must never *waver*.

Mood - is the feeling a piece of literature arouses in the reader: happy, sad, peaceful, etc. Mood is the overall feeling of the piece, or passage. It could be called the author's emotional-intellectual attitude toward the subject

-By choosing certain words rather than others and by weaving their connotations together, an author can give whole settings and scenes a kind of personality, or mood. Note the difference if he/she describes a tall, thin tree as "erect like a steeple", "spiked like a witch's hat", "a leafy spear", or "rather inclining toward the slim". However, no single image can work alone; mood can only arise from a steady pressure in the language toward one major atmospheric effect. That effect should support the main purpose of the story."

These lists might help to distinguish between the two.

Tone words

POSITIVE TONE WORDS

admiring	hilarious
adoring	hopeful
affectionate	humorous

NEUTRAL
(+, -, or neutral)
commanding
direct
impartial

NEGATIVE TONE WORDS

abhorring	hostile
acerbic	impatient
ambiguous	incredulous

appreciative
approving
bemused
benevolent
blithe
calm
casual
celebratory
cheerful
comforting
comic
compassionate
complimentary
conciliatory
confident
contented
delightful
earnest
ebullient
ecstatic
effusive
elated
empathetic
encouraging
euphoric
excited
exhilarated
expectant
facetious
fervent
flippant
forthright
friendly
funny
gleeful
gushy
happy

interested
introspective
jovial
joyful
laudatory
light
lively
mirthful
modest
nostalgic
optimistic
passionate
placid
playful
poignant
proud
reassuring
reflective
relaxed
respectful
reverent
romantic
sanguine
scholarly
self-assured
sentimental
serene
silly
sprightly
straightforward
sympathetic
tender
tranquil
whimsical
wistful
worshipful
zealous

indirect
meditative
objective
questioning
speculative
unambiguous
unconcerned
understated

ambivalent
angry
annoyed
antagonistic
anxious
apathetic
apprehensive
belligerent
bewildered
biting
bitter
blunt
bossy
cold
conceited
condescending
confused
contemptuous
curt
cynical
demanding
depressed
derisive
derogatory
desolate
despairing
desperate
detached
diabolic
disappointed
disliking
disrespectful
doubtful
embarrassed
enraged
evasive
fatalistic
fearful
forceful
foreboding
frantic
frightened
frustrated
furious
gloomy
grave
greedy
grim
harsh
haughty
holier-than-thou
hopeless

indifferent
indignant
inflammatory
insecure
insolent
irreverent
lethargic
melancholy
mischievous
miserable
mocking
mournful
nervous
ominous
outraged
paranoid
pathetic
patronizing
pedantic
pensive
pessimistic
pretentious
psychotic
resigned
reticent
sarcastic
sardonic
scornful
self-deprecating
selfish
serious
severe
sinister
skeptical
sly
solemn
somber
stern
stolid
stressful
strident
suspicious
tense
threatening
tragic
uncertain
uneasy
unfriendly
unsympathetic
upset
violent
wry

THEME WORDS

- The theme of a literary work is its underlying central idea or the generalization it communicates about life.
- The theme is written in a single sentence called a theme statement.
- A theme statement must be an expression of the text's main point(s) and there should be no reference to specific images, situations or characters in the text.
- Theme is always expressed as a general statement.

1. Abandonment
2. Acceptance
3. Achievement
4. Adversity
5. Alienation
6. Ambition
7. Authority
8. Beauty
9. Betrayal
10. Birth
11. Bravery
12. Challenges
13. Choices
14. Coming of Age
15. Commitment
16. Community
17. Compromise
18. Conformity
19. Courage
20. Cowardice
21. Cruelty
22. Cycle of Life
23. Death
24. Deception
25. Despair
26. Determination
27. Dishonesty
28. Disillusion
29. Dreams
30. Duty
31. Education
32. Ethics
33. Epiphany
34. Failure
35. Faith
36. Family
37. Fate
38. Fear
39. Forgiveness
40. Freedom
41. Free Will
42. Friendship
43. Gender
44. God
45. Grief
46. Guilt
47. Happiness
48. Hatred
49. Heroism
50. Honour
51. Hope
52. Idealism
53. Identity
54. Ignorance
55. Independence
56. Individuality
57. Inequality
58. Influence
59. Innocence
60. Injustice
61. Integrity
62. Isolation
63. Jealousy
64. Justice
65. Leadership
66. Liberty
67. Loneliness
68. Loss
69. Love
70. Loyalty
71. Nature
72. Obligation
73. Opportunity
74. Oppression
75. Optimism
76. Passion
77. Perseverance
78. Power
79. Prejudice
80. Pride
81. Rebellion
82. Redemption
83. Rejection
84. Resiliency
85. Resourcefulness
86. Responsibility
87. Respect
88. Sacrifice
89. Security
90. Self-discovery
91. Society
92. Struggle
93. Suffering
94. Survival
95. Trust
96. Truth
97. Violence
98. Work