

What It Looks Like

Use these 'before and after' writing samples to show the impact of these techniques and to model what you expect from your students.

Year 4 Writing Sample

Topic: The astonishing bicycle

Before

I was held by the neck and wheeled outside. The little girl who looked as light as a feather sat on my seat, but she was heavier than an elephant. Suddenly I realised my original owner was teaching her grandchild to ride.

This ending has an action climax – the bicycle's owner has returned – but it is missing an emotional resolution.

After

I was held by the neck and wheeled outside, the ground feels fluffy and painted green. Craackk! That right there was my back, the little girl who looked as light as a feather just sat on my seat, she was heavier than an elephant.

Adding sensory details to the action climax adds to the excitement and makes it feel more real.

'Take it for a ride!' called a voice, a voice I recognized, my original owner gently encouraging her grandchild to have fun with me as she did. Before I knew it I was off again, I was being ridden again! It was a miracle!

Using dialogue to reveal that the bicycle's original owner has returned is much more powerful than just telling the reader.

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An emotional resolution has been added – the bicycle is overjoyed to be ridden again.

