

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 3 Writing Sample

Topic: The decision

Before

The ladder went to the sky. I wondered if I should go up the ladder.

The scene could build tension more effectively if the description included some sensory details.

A longer scene would help us understand the character more and care about whether or not they climb the ladder.

After

Thunder growled. The wind blew hard. The rain fell. A mysterious ladder twisted up towards the clouds. I wondered where the ladder went. Should I go up it or should I stay where I was, nervous and shaking in the cold?

Jack, Year 3, Honeywood Primary School

The sound of thunder is a great way to start a tension scene. The use of the word 'growled' coupled with short, sharp sentences builds suspense.

Using the senses, including the character's feelings, draws us into the scene and builds empathy with the character. We care what happens to them.

