



Select powerful verbs:

- Crept
- Grabbed
- smothered



Make the character alone.

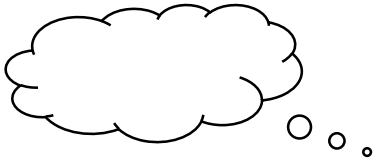
Use dramatic sentence starters:

- Out of the blue
- Without warning
- In an instant
- Suddenly,



Use empty words to hide the threat:

- Something,
- someone,
- somebody,
- it,
- them,
- a silhouette.



Show the character's feelings by reactions and thoughts:

- She froze.
- Heart began to race.



Use the weather to reflect the mood:

- The fog clouded our vision.
- The rain began to pour down.
- The sky was dark and bleak.



Use rhetorical questions to show the character's worry.

- Where am I?
- What was that?
- What am I going to do?

Use short sentences to build tension:

- It was dark.
- There was a creaking far away.
- It was getting closer.

Use long sentences to show the threat get closer and closer:

- I could hear the wind rushing through the trees as the noise grew louder and louder.



Panting hard, Claire raced back across the empty playground. The door moaned on its hinges as she pushed it. Gravesend Primary was still open, so Mr Jakes, the caretaker, had to be **somewhere**. She paused and listened, but could not hear him. **Quickly**, she made her way to the classroom, down the seemingly **deserted**, **murky** corridors.

'Now, where was it?' she asked herself as she searched through her tray.

There it was! Claire picked up her new pen. Mum would not have been too pleased if that had been lost. She smiled to herself, thinking about her birthday party. It had only been a week ago.

