

Angry Ants – Slow writing challenge

You can only write 9 sentences. You can use 2 long, 4 medium and 3 short sentences. Which order will you use them in? Experiment with the different sentence lengths and structures. Once you have written a piece that you're proud of, explain your sentence choices and the effect you wanted them to have.

Slow writing example

Deep in the woods that huddled behind the mill, the girl padded on the bouncy moss as she searched for the golden mushrooms. She had been walking for an hour, and her mind was beginning to drift. Thwack! A finger-like branch swung at her face and left a stinging scratch on her skin. As she pressed her clammy palm to her cheek, she glanced down at the ground to see a mass of brown swarming around her feet. She stumbled. She tripped. A helpless cry gurgled in her throat as she thudded onto the moss. It was then that she felt herself being pulled backwards...

Long

Medium

Short

Slow writing example – could be used as an example, or children could colour-code the sentence lengths

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Split sentences - could be used for showing the sentence lengths and structures, or children could be given the sentences and asked to experiment with the order.

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She had been walking for an hour, and her mind was beginning to drift.

Thwack!

A finger-like branch swung at her face and left a stinging scratch on her skin.

As she pressed her clammy palm to her cheek, she glanced down at the ground to see a mass of brown swarming around her feet.

She stumbled.

She tripped.

A helpless cry gurgled in her throat as she thudded onto the moss.

It was then that she felt herself being pulled backwards...