

Year 4 Summer Week 10 Lesson 4

Can I advance action by adding
suspense?

Fast Five

Correctly punctuate this piece of speech.

The meerkats stood in the hot sand and looked up at their beloved fruit What are you doing up there the smallest meerkat shouted loudly

Preparing to steal your dinner replied the nasty vulture

With that he jumped off of the branch and launched into the bright blue sky

Fast Five - Answers

Correctly punctuate this piece of speech.

The meerkats stood in the hot sand and looked up at their beloved fruit. “What are you doing up there?” the smallest meerkat shouted loudly.

“Preparing to steal your dinner!” replied the nasty vulture.

With that, he jumped off of the branch and launched into the bright blue sky.

What are the benefits of creating suspense?

- It keeps readers guessing.
- It creates uncertainty.
- It creates dramatic tension.
- It engages the reader, makes them care.
- It heightens the feel of important scenes

When creating suspense in your writing, think about showing the reader what is happening rather than telling them. You want to make the reader interested and eager to read on so you do not want to just tell them exactly what is happening- allow the reader to use their imagination.

'Catchit' is full of drama but to be able to write the action, drama and suspense you need to be able to identify it first.

Rewatch the video and I want you to make notes on where you think the suspense is.

<https://www.literacyshed.com/catchit.html#>

The suspense in this video is usually followed by action.

Seeing the eagle's shadow flying above

The eagle opening his claw to grab the fruit

The meerkats grabbing onto the eagle's feet and all flying into the air

Slow motion of them flying higher and faster

Falling to the floor with the fruit

Running to catch the fruit

When adding suspense you need to think about:

- The type of wording you use

E.g. *It was late and they knew that they had to survey this peculiar planet before the darkness became too dangerous.*

When adding suspense you need to think about:

- The type of wording you use
- The feelings of the characters

E.g *Crouching behind a bin, hearts thumping, they waited and watched.*

When adding suspense you need to think about:

- The type of wording you use
- The feelings of the characters
- The type of sentences you use

E.g *It hovered just above the ground. Lights shimmered and a door opened. Out of the dark interior of the gondola, a shadow began to move...*

There are short sharp sentences and ellipsis here.

Describing the object as 'it' makes it seem more mysterious.

TASKS:

Using the suspense that you identified in the video - choose a short section in the video and describe what is happening making sure you create suspense.

RED: Write 3 sentences describing what is happening throughout the video, choose your words carefully to create suspense.

YELLOW: Write 4 sentences on a short section of the story (no longer than a minute of the video). Use a variety of sentences, choose interesting vocabulary to create suspense.

GREEN: Write a paragraphs on a short section of the story (no longer than a minute of the video). Use a variety of sentences, choose interesting vocabulary and create suspense by describing how the meerkats feel.