

Using Better Verbs and Descriptive Words

Make stories better with more interesting words.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Verbs - think about a more descriptive way to show how someone does something.

Write 5 better words for the past tense word **went** as in: She went to the store.

Rewrite the sentence 3 ways using the words above or new verbs. **She went to the store.**

Adjectives and Adverbs - think about why, when and how this person did this thing. Was this person happy about what they are doing or did? Were they sad, angry, upset about what they are doing or did? What happened to make this person feel this way about doing this thing? What happened to make this person want to or have to do this thing? Who else is involved?

Take one of the sentences above and rewrite it as a 3 to 5 sentence story telling about who "**she**" is, "**when**" she went to the store, "**why**" she went to the store and "**how**" she went to the store.

Better words page 2

Write 5 better words for the present tense word **go** or **goes** as in: He goes to school.

Rewrite the sentence 3 ways using the words above or new verbs. **He goes to school.**

Adjectives and Adverbs - think about why, when and how this person is doing this thing. Is this person happy about what they are doing or did? Are they sad, angry, upset about what they are doing or did? What happened to make this person feel this way about doing this thing? What happened to make this person want to or have to do this thing? Who else is involved?

Take one of the sentences above and rewrite it as a 3 to 5 sentence story telling about who "**he**" is, "**when**" he goes to school, "**why**" he goes to school and "**how**" he goes to school.

Feelings - We can create word clues to tell us how someone is feeling without saying they feel happy or sad or lonely or angry. We want the reader to infer the feeling from the character's actions and expressions. For the questions below, check ALL answers that apply.

Matt scrunched his hands into tight fists. He stomped and kicked the grass. Matt likely is feeling ...

_____ happy _____ sad _____ angry _____ bored _____ silly

We can infer some things besides feelings. Where might Matt be in this story?

_____ at home _____ at the park _____ at school _____ indoors _____ outdoors

Jenny smiled so much, her cheeks hurt. Jenny likely is feeling...

_____ happy _____ sad _____ angry _____ bored _____ silly

Where might Jenny be in this story?

_____ birthday party _____ all alone _____ at a comedy show _____ with friends

Jorge raced ahead of Karl. Jorge likely is feeling ...

_____ happy _____ sad _____ angry _____ bored _____ scared

Write a 3 to 5 sentence story about what Jorge and Karl are doing to make Jorge race ahead of Karl.

Think about a more descriptive way to show how someone feels about something. Write 3 better phrases for: **She likes apples**. DO NOT SAY that "she likes apples because..." We want to know that she likes apples without saying **like**.

Write 3 better phrases for the word **doesn't like** as in: He doesn't like oranges. DO NOT SAY that "he doesn't like oranges because..." We want to know that he doesn't like oranges without saying **like**.

Use the sentences above about someone liking apples or not liking oranges to write a short story. Incorporate as many of the feelings and descriptive words on previous pages as possible. Write the story so we can feel what the person feels and know where they are without specifically saying how they feel.

Example: Maggie stabbed the tomato with her fork and looked at it. "Tomatoes are stupid," Maggie yelled. She threw the fork and tomato back onto the plate. She crossed her arms in front of her chest and scowled at her plate. No matter what her mother said, Maggie would not eat the tomatoes on her plate.

There was something about crisp corn on the cob. Maybe it was the way the butter dripped as it melted on the kernels or the warm weather that seemed to coincide with eating corn on the cob. Just the sound of the corn crunching as he bit it made Randy smile.
