

VERBS & BEYOND

ENHANCE SENTENCES

This strategy can help:

- communicate information
- improve connection between writer and reader
- create depth and clarity

Selecting the most effective verb(s) to use in sentences is tremendously rewarding. This strategy is exciting because it enables the writer to see dramatic results immediately. Any writer wishing to improve the reader's ability to understand the world being created on the page may benefit from this strategy.

Encourage your writer to select a sentence with a weak or vague verb from his story and write three other verbs that are related to the original verb. Then, instruct your writer to add a little detail to each of the new verbs.

Guidance with Sample:

G: Guide

W: Writer

G: Pick a sentence you feel can be more powerful or interesting.

W: The sentence is, 'She waited on the hillside.'

G: What is the verb?

W: The verb is 'waited'.

G: When you think about your character, what other things could she be doing?

W: My character could also be watching, listening, and wondering.

G: What is the character watching, listening to, and wondering about?

W: She is watching fireflies, listening to cicadas, and wondering about her happiness.

G: You are going to rewrite your original sentence including your new verbs and extra details.

This is a good time to add as much detail as you can to help your reader visualize the setting and tone you are trying to create.

Enhanced Sentence:

She **waited** on the hillside, **watching** the fireflies float above the tall grass and **listening** to the song of the cicada in the cypress grove, **wondering** if she would ever be this happy again.