



# Spotting the Effects Writers Create With Words

KS4 ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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## Why Words Matter More Than You Think

Writers are like painters — they use their tools carefully to create a picture in your mind. Instead of brushes and paint, writers use **word choices**, and these choices create **effects**. An effect is the feeling, mood, or impression the reader experiences. The same story can feel scary, funny, sad, or exciting depending on which words the writer picks.

When you read, ask yourself: **How does this make me feel? What mood is the writer creating?** Your answer comes from the words they chose.

## The Power of Adjectives and Verbs

**Adjectives** (describing words) and **verbs** (action words) are the writers' most powerful tools. Compare these two sentences: *The dog ran across the field.* versus *The dog scrambled frantically across the scorched field.*

Think of it like turning up the volume on a speaker. Plain words are quiet; powerful, descriptive words are loud and demand your attention.

The first sentence is boring. The second creates **urgency** and **desperation** using words like *scrambled*, *frantically*, and *scorched*. The reader suddenly feels worried about the dog.

## Looking for Patterns and Repetition

Writers sometimes repeat the same word or similar sounds to create an **effect**. This is called **consonance** or **alliteration**. When a writer repeats *s* sounds — *she slowly, silently slipped through the shadows* — it creates a **creeping, sneaky feeling**.

Pay attention to which words appear again and again. If a writer keeps mentioning *darkness*, *cold*, and *loneliness*, they're building a **bleak, sad mood**.

## How to Spot Effects in Your Reading

**Step 1:** Notice how the writing makes you feel. Excited? Nervous? Bored? That's the effect.

**Step 2:** Find the words that created that feeling. Underline them.

**Step 3:** Ask *why* the writer chose those words instead of simpler ones.

Think of it like being a detective. The mood is your clue, and the interesting words are the evidence.

A writer describing a haunted house might say it was *decrepit* and *sinister* rather than just *old and scary*. These specific words make you feel educated tension and dread instead of simple fear.

## **Remember: Every Word is a Choice**

Professional writers don't use words by accident. Every adjective, verb, and even punctuation mark is chosen to create an **effect**. Your job as a reader is to notice these choices and understand what the writer is trying to make you feel or think. This skill makes you a better reader and helps you appreciate the craft of writing.