

IT WAS A DARK AND STORMY NIGHT....

What a great start to a story! Can you take it on from here?

Writers spend a lot of time imagining themselves inside the story they're writing so that they can describe the atmosphere to the reader in detail and also experience what their characters are feeling. I'd love you to try this before you start writing your rainy tale. So let's take it step by step.

IMAGINE

Close your eyes and listen to the sounds once more with these questions in your mind.

Are you inside a house, nice and warm, or outside in the rain?

Is the rain cold or warm?

Are the sounds comforting or scary?

Where are you – in a city, in the mountains, by the sea?

Are you alone or with friends or family?

Once you've decided on those things, sit still, listen, and picture yourself right there.

Done that? Good. Now you're ready to **set the scene**.

DESCRIBE

Let's FEEL what it's like to be in your opening scene...

Adjectives are describing words like big, or red, or lumpy, or delicious. **Similes** are when you say something is *like* something else. E.g, the thunder was *like* a roar.

Describe the opening scene of your story using adjectives and similes. Think of different verbs, too. For instance, instead of *the thunder rumbled* you could say *the thunder growled*.

LET'S START THE STORY ...

Has the rainy description already given you inspiration for a story? If not, read on...

Why not use this line next and see where it takes you:

Walking through the pouring rain came the figure of a tall man.

If nothing springs to mind, you could ask yourself these following questions.

Who is he?

Are you pleased to see him or unsure, or are you even scared?

What does he want?

Can he help you or can you help *him*?

See where your imagination takes you and write as little or as much as you'd like. I don't want you to worry about spelling or mistakes. I just want you to get swept up in the feeling of a thunderstorm – and what might happen on a dark and stormy night. Don't worry about finishing it. Just start it and see where it goes...

HAVE FUN! Rachel x