

▼ TECHNIQUE	▼ EXAMPLES	▼ COMMENT
Similes	1 2 3	
Pairs of words	1 'desperation and anguish' 2 3	This not only describes the pain contained in the cry but also hints at the terror that the narrator feels.
Questions	1 'But what was "real"?' 2 3	Connected to the theme of the supernatural, this question shows the doubt in the narrator's mind and contributes to an atmosphere of fear and uncertainty.
Powerful adjectives	1 'howling darkness' 2 3	
Short or incomplete sentences	1 2 3	
Images	1 2 3	

KEY POINT

An understanding of English grammar will better enable you to understand what the writer is trying to achieve.

Sometimes, writers use participle phrases as a technique. These can be present participle phrases (beginning with verbs ending in '-ing', such as 'running', 'thinking' and so on) or past participle phrases (beginning with verbs that have '-ed' endings, such as 'presented', 'created' or irregular ones such as 'driven').

In the sentence beginning, 'I lay back and slipped into that pleasant, trance-like state...', recalling the past is an action that happens while the narrator is lying back in bed. This participle phrase enables the reader to understand why the narrator felt like he was a child again.

In the same way, the sentence beginning, 'We sat on the floor together and I hugged her warm body to me...' shows the reader the narrator's mental state. His physical action of hugging the dog makes the reader think of relief; it is the past participle phrase 'ashamed of myself' that indicates there is a sense of shame as well.

The technique is often used to give more information about happenings. This adds detail to a text and gives variety to sentence structure as well.