

- let the threat get closer and closer
- show the character's feelings by reactions, e.g. *she froze*
- include short punchy sentences for drama
- use rhetorical questions to make the reader worried – *Who had turned out the light?*
- use empty words to hide the threat – *something, somebody, it, a silhouette*
- select powerful verbs – *crept, grabbed, smothered*
- use dramatic connectives – *in an instant, without warning, out of the blue*

- hide the threat;
- use an abandoned setting or lull the reader with a cosy setting
- personify the setting to make it sound dangerous – use the weather and/or time of day to create atmosphere
- make your character hear, see, touch, smell or sense something ominous
- surprise the reader with the unexpected
- suggest something is about to happen
- reveal the character's thoughts, e.g. *She wondered if she would ever escape the darkness.*
- slow the action by using sentences of three and drop in clauses.