

Examples of Decorations:

1. question

Where lurked the real wolf?

Who can give law to lovers? (Boethius, trans.)

2. conversation/quotation

“Why won’t they believe me?” Peter screamed in despair.

“Time to come home,” rumbled the mother elephant in infrasound.

As Mark Twain noted, “History may not repeat itself but it sure does rhyme.”

3. 3sss (Three Short Staccato Sentences)

4:3:2 Killer bees invaded America. Viciously they attacked. Humans suffered.

3:3:3 Savage bees attacked. Violently they killed. Nobody was spared.

2:2:2 Bees invaded. They marauded. Humans perished.

Other possible 3sss patterns: 5:4:3, 5:5:5, 4:4:4

Always use descending patterns. Avoid 2:3:4 or 3:4:5 patterns. Increasing patterns have less impact.

4. dramatic opening - closing

A short dramatic sentence (vss) before the topic sentence, combined with another dramatic vss after the clincher sentence.

Hungry flames roared. (opening)

The farm lay in ashes. (closing)

Peter sighed. (opening)

Killer bees invaded. (opening)

Peter had an idea. (closing)

The nightmare had begun. (closing)

5. simile/metaphor (see wall chart examples on p. 20)

A simile compares one thing to something else.

A metaphor says something is something else; it clearly cannot be true.

6. alliteration

Two or more words (preferably three) beginning with the same letter or letter blend sound. Alliteratives may be separated by conjunctions or articles, short pronouns or prepositions.

. . . big, beautiful butterflies. . .

. . . crass, crude and crafty. . .

. . . clumsily he clawed and clambered up the cliff. . .

Advanced: dramatic opening and closing paragraphs (See Webster text, p. 222.)

Note regarding decorations: As it is natural for children to play with new toys, writing students will often “overuse” a new style technique for a period of time. This is to be expected. Even if it is cumbersome, allow leeway. If the “overuse” does not wane over time, you may eventually intervene, but wait a while.