Essential Skill: Hyperbole

Best Trip Ever!

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, writers. It's Margaret. When I was younger, I went on a trip with my family across the country. I got to see some incredible things like this giant duck in Flanders, New York, the biggest peach in Gaffney, South Carolina, and America's deepest meteor crater in Winslow, Arizona.

My friend Sam recently took a road trip with her family. They decided to drive across the country, seeing different sites along the way. During her trip, I got a text from her. It said, "This road trip is taking FOREVER!" I know Sam's trip isn't actually taking forever. But by describing it this way, I could tell exactly how she was feeling.

DISCUSSION 1

Discuss: Can you think of a time when you felt like something was taking forever? What was the situation?

HOOK 2

Maybe you said that you also took a trip that took a long time, or that you feel the same way when your video game takes a long time to load. You probably came up with other examples too, which is great.

Sam was exaggerating in order to express how she was feeling. Exaggeration means making something sound more extreme or bigger than it really is. Like, "I have so much homework," could become, "I have a truckload of homework."

You can use exaggeration to make something sound smaller. "Those cookies are small," could become, "You need a magnifying glass to see those cookies."

You can use it to make something sound better. "I like those toys," could become, "These are the greatest toys of all time."

An exaggeration can also make something sound worse. "I'm really hot," could become "I'm so hot I'm melting."

As Sam traveled on her family trip, she wrote about her adventures and took lots of photos.

She's going to turn it into a journal she's calling Best Trip Ever. Before Sam could leave on her journey, she had to get ready and pack her bags. She wrote, "I have a lot to do." That sentence is okay, but it doesn't describe how she really felt.

Here is how Sam felt—Sam is feeling stressed by how many things she has to do. To add her feelings into the sentence, she could write, "I have so many things to do, it's going to take forever!" This is exaggerating the time or how long it would take her. She could also write, "I have an ocean of things to do," which is exaggerating size by using something really big—the ocean—to describe it. Sam ended up writing, "I have a million things to do." She didn't really have a million things to do, but she chose to exaggerate by using a really big number. Sam's sentence now shows how she was feeling.

At one point on her trip, Sam wrote, "I'm very hungry. I could eat a lot of food." Sam wants to use exaggeration to add more feeling to the sentence.

DISCUSSION 2

Discuss: Here's what she wrote. Here's how Sam felt. How could you use exaggeration to describe how hungry Sam was feeling?

HOOK 3

Maybe you said, "I've never been hungrier in my life," or "I'm so hungry I could eat a mountain of food." You may have come up with something else, and that's okay.

Saying, "I've never been hungrier in my life," or "I'm so hungry I could eat a mountain of food," is using exaggeration to add more feeling to it. When writers do this, it's called *hyperbole*.

Woah! That's a cool sounding word. Some words are tricky to pronounce so we break them down into smaller sounds, like this: hi- per-buh-lee. Now put it all together—hi-per-buh-lee. Try saying it after me—hi-per-buh-lee. Nice job!

Hyperbole is when we exaggerate and use words to explain things in big ways. Like:

- "It was the most amazing thing I've ever seen!"
- "She was the nicest person on the planet!"
- "I had the best day of my life!"

As writers, you can use hyperbole to show how big feelings can be.

Sam wants her Best Trip Ever journal to be, well, the best ever. And she wants to use hyperbole to add more of her feelings into it. You'll look at some of the things Sam saw on her trip and use hyperbole to write about them.

I'll get you started, step by step.

STEP 1

Get your supplies.

STEP 2

In today's lesson, you'll need someone to share ideas with. This could be a partner or someone you sit near. When everyone has a partner, click the arrow to go to the next step.

STEP 3

Sam was really excited to go on her trip. At first, she wrote, "I'm excited." But then wrote, "I'm so excited I'm bouncing off the walls."

Discuss: Which sentence shows how excited Sam really felt and how did it do that?

STEP 4

You might have said, "The second sentence because that's how she was feeling," or that "Bouncing around is a great way to describe how she felt." You may have come up with something different, and that's okay.

The second sentence is using hyperbole. By exaggerating and saying that she was so excited "I'm bouncing off the walls," it helps to show how Sam was feeling—not just excited but really excited!

Before Sam's family could leave for their road trip, they had to pack the car. Here's what it felt like to Sam. Sam wrote, "We packed a million things for the trip." Find the suitcase on your Best Trip Ever worksheet.

In the sentence, "We packed a million things for the trip," underline the part that uses hyperbole. Use your Word Bank if you need help.

STEP 5

Exaggerating and using a really high number, like a million, to describe something is a great way to add hyperbole to a sentence.

On the second day of her trip, Sam and her family sat in traffic. Sam wrote, "We were stuck in traffic." Here's what it felt like to Sam.

Discuss with your partner: How could you use hyperbole to show how Sam was feeling about being stuck in traffic?

STEP 6

Find the car on your Best Trip Ever worksheet. Using what you and your partner came up with, each write a new sentence here.

STEP 7

You might have written, "We were stuck in traffic forever and ever." Or maybe you wrote something else, and that's fine.

On the third day of the trip, they visited a huge forest. As they drove beneath the trees, the view from the car was incredible. Sam wrote, "The trees were very tall." Here's what it felt like to Sam.

Discuss with your partner: How could you use hyperbole to describe how tall the trees were?

STEP 8

Find the trees on your Best Trip Ever worksheet. Using what you and your partner came up with, write a new sentence here.

STEP 9

You might have written, "The trees were the tallest in the universe," or "The trees touch the sky." You may have written something different, which is great!

At one point on the trip, they stopped at a railroad crossing to wait for a train to pass. Suddenly, the train sped by surprising everyone. Sam wrote, "The train zoomed by fast." Here's what it felt like to Sam.

Discuss with your partner ways that you could use hyperbole to describe how fast the train was moving.

STEP 10

Find the train on your Best Trip Ever worksheet. Write your sentence here.

STEP 11

Nice job! After five days on the road, Sam's trip ended. She was back at home.

Sam wants to end her journal with a few more sentences about her trip. Here's what she wrote. "I am very tired." Here's how Sam felt.

We saw many cool places. Here's how she felt.

We eat bad food. Here's how the food made her feel.

The trip was fun. Here's how Sam felt about her trip.

Find the sentences below the house on your Best Trip Ever worksheet. Circle two of Sam's sentences and rewrite them using hyperbole.

Write your two sentences here. If you have time, you can do more. Use your Word Bank if you need help.

STEP 12

Take turns reading what you wrote out loud to your partner. When you're done, show a quiet thumbs up.

WRAP UP

Nice job! You helped Sam use hyperbole to describe things in big ways, adding more of her feelings into her writing. That makes you hyperbole heroes!

No matter what kind of writing you're doing, use hyperbole to make it the best in the universe.

Thanks for joining me. I'll see you next time.