Essential Skill: Onomatopoeia

Jungle Sounds

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, writers. It's Anne. One time, when I turned on my TV, I saw this. Something seems to be missing. Then, it hit me—it was missing the sounds. My TV had the sound turned off. This made me think about how sounds bring a scene to life, making it feel real and exciting. If there was a scene in a movie that sounded like this, that wouldn't be very exciting. But, if it sounded like this—Woah! The audience would really feel like they were in that storm.

It turns out that most of the sounds we hear in movies aren't recorded while filming. Instead, someone has to make the sounds in a studio. This is Joanna Fang. She is a professional Foley Artist. Foley artists make sounds for movies, TV shows, and video games. Take a look at what her job is like.

> *- "Let's, step into my office. Just watch your step. I love my office. This is my creative space. This is the Sony PlayStation Foley Studio."*

Joanna uses all kinds of objects to create interesting sounds. Check it out.

> *- "What we'll do is we'll sometimes take this and pair it against the wood right here. So, if we have these dramatic doors that have, like, creaks on them. Using lump charcoal for snow—it's got, like, all the cracking characteristics of ice.*

These are actually just toilet plungers. Foley at its best is painting a scene with sound. Not bad today!"

DISCUSSION 1

Discuss: What did you notice about the job of a Foley Artist or the sounds that they create?

HOOK 2

Maybe you noticed how she made a creaking door sound, or footsteps, or a horse running using toilet plungers. You may have noticed something else, and that's great.

Foley Artists use sounds to bring scenes to life. As a writer, you can include sounds in your writing to bring scenes to life, too. When writers include sounds, they can't put actual sounds in their writing like a Foley Artist. Instead, they use sound words like, *splat, pop,* or *splash.* Let's give it a try. Take a look at this scene in an arcade.

As you listen to the sounds, silently think of the sound words that you hear. Any word that you come up with is okay, as long as it sounds like the noise you're trying to describe.

DISCUSSION 2

Discuss: What sound words did you come up with?

HOOK 3

I don't know what you said, but I came up with, *ding, beep,* and *boop*. You may have said something else, and that's great. I can now use these sound words to write a sentence about this scene. Here's the first sentence I wrote: "The arcade is noisy." That sentence is okay, but let's try adding some sound words. *Ding, beep,* and *boop*, are the

words that I came up with for the sounds that I heard. So, let's try adding them to my writing. "The arcade is noisy with lots of *beeps, boops,* and *dings* from the games."

Wow! By using my sound words in my sentence, my description of the scene now comes to life, feeling more real and exciting.

When writers add sound words to their writing, it has a special name— onomatopoeia. Woah! That is a huge word. Some words are tricky to pronounce, so we break them down into smaller sounds, like this: ah-nuh-ma-tuh-pia. Now you try saying it: ah-nuh-ma-tuh-pia. Now put it all together: onomatopoeia. Nice job! Onomatopoeia is a fun word to say, but it's even more fun to use in your writing.

Remember that TV show that I accidentally watched without sound? I need your help to use onomatopoeia, or sound words, to describe it. And I'll make sure the sound is turned on this time. You will think of words that could describe each sound and then you'll write a paragraph that brings the scene to life.

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

The laughing falcon is a bird that can live in the rainforest. Its name comes from the unique sound that it makes. Listen to the sound the falcon makes.

Discuss with your partner: What sounds did you hear the falcon make? If you want, you can try to make the sound softly with your own voice.

STEP 4

Find the falcon on your Jungle Sound Map. Pick your favorite sound and come up with a word that sounds like that noise. Try to think of a word that is the sound. Write your word here. If you want, you can use your Word Bank to help.

STEP 5

The gibbon is a small ape that lives in the rainforest. It has long arms and a strong voice. Find the gibbon on your Jungle Sound Map. Listen to the sound the gibbon makes.

Discuss with your partner: What word could you use to describe the sound the gibbon makes?

STEP 6

In the space next to the gibbon, write a sound word that describes the sound the gibbon makes. Try inventing a word that you think makes the sound.

STEP 7

Found in rainforests, the tapir uses its unique nose to find food. Find the tapir on your Jungle Sound Map and then listen to the sound that it makes.

Discuss with your partner: What sound did you hear the tapir make?

STEP 8

In the space next to the tapir, write a sound word that describes the sound the tapir makes.

STEP 9

The lemur is a small animal that has large eyes and loves eating leaves. Find the lemur on your Jungle Sound Map. Listen to the sound the lemur makes, then write a sound word that describes it.

STEP 10

The dragonfly is an insect that lives near water. It has a slim body and colorful wings. Find the dragonfly on your Jungle Sound Map. Listen to the sound that it makes. In the space next to the dragonfly, write a sound word that describes its sound.

STEP 11

Nice job! All of the animals in your Sound Map now have sound words.

Find the "Describe the Jungle Sounds" section on your worksheet. In the first blank, copy the sound word that you wrote for the falcon to complete the sentence.

STEP 12

Find the second sentence in the "Describe the Jungle Sounds" section. Copy the sound word that you wrote for the gibbon to complete the second sentence.

STEP 13

You may have written, "The falcon went *kree* loudly in the trees." Or "I heard the gibbon *whoop* during the daytime." Maybe you wrote something else, and that's great. There are lots of different words you could use.

Take turns reading your first two sentences out loud to your partner.

STEP 14

Find "The Jungle Sounds" section on your worksheet and use the words from your Jungle Sound Map to write a few sentences that describe the other animals and sounds in the jungle. You can use the Jungle Words and the sentence starters on your Word Bank to help.

STEP 15

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

WRAP UP

Great job! By using onomatopoeia in your writing, you made this scene come to life using your words. Onomatopoeia is not just for describing sounds on a TV show—you can use it in stories, when you're explaining something, or really for anything you're writing about.

The wind blew past Sofia—*whoosh*! The food is cooking when you hear *sizzle* and *crackle*. Racing is fun because of the cars going *vroom*!

No matter what kind of writing you are doing, onomatopoeia can help bring your writing to life. So, give it a try in your next story. I'll see you next time.