

### **Smiley Face Tricks**

# 1. Magic Three: Three examples in a series that follow the same pattern, also known as parallel structure, used for emphasis and to create rhythm

On schooldays I *fling* open the front door, *slam* my books on the front hall floor, and *yell* for my mother.

# 2. Expanded Moment: instead of "speeding" past a moment, the writer slows down the actions to emphasize a moment and make the reader take notice

"You put that sweater on right now and no more nonsense." "But it's not—" "Now!" Mrs. Price says. This is when I wish I wasn't eleven because all the years inside of me—ten, nine, eight, seven, six, five, four, three, two, and one—are pushing at the back of my eyes when I put one arm through one sleeve of the sweater that smells like cottage cheese, and then the other arm through the other and stand there with my arms apart like if the sweater hurts me and it does, all itchy and full of germs that aren't even mine. That's when everything I've been holding in since this morning, since when Mrs. Price put the sweater on my desk, finally lets go, and all of a sudden I'm crying in front of everybody. I wish I was invisible but I'm not. I'm eleven and it's my birthday today and I'm crying like I'm three in front of everybody. I put my head down on the desk and bury my face in my stupid clown-sweater arms. My face all hot and spit coming out of my mouth because I can't stop the little animal noises from coming out of me until there aren't any more tears left in my eyes, and it's just my body shaking like when you have the hiccups, and my whole head hurts like when you drink milk too fast.

### 3. Repetition for Effect: the repetition of words to reinforce an idea or message

"I'm going *away* from this place, *away* from my disapproving mother, *away* from my annoying brother, and *away* from this boring town."

# 4. Hyphenated Modifier: forming a compound adjective or adverb by hyphenating multiple adjectives or adverbs together

#### the you-are-so grounded-for-the-rest-of-your-life look

### 5. Figurative Language

a. **Alliteration:** the repetition of usually initial consonant sounds in two or more neighboring words or syllables

wild and woolly, threatening throngs

### Note: do not use VOWEL sounds - that is called assonance

b. **Onomatopoeia:** The use of a word to describe or imitate a natural sound or the sound c. made by an object or an action.

#### buzz hiss

- d. Hyperbole: An exaggeration that is so dramatic that no one would believe the statement is true.
- e.

### He was so hungry, he ate that whole cornfield for lunch, stalks and all.

f. **Metaphor:** A metaphor comparison object or idea with another to suggest they are alike without using the words "as" or "like".

### Her face was a ray of sunshine.

g. **Simile:** A simile uses the words "like" or "as" to compare one object or idea with another to suggest they are alike.

### Her face was like a ray of sunshine.

- h. **Personification:** A figure of speech in which human characteristics are given
- i. to an animal or an object.

### My teddy bear gave me a hug.