

SMART™ Lesson

Creating Suspense in Literature

Introduction

In literature, suspense is a feeling of tension and anticipation that keeps the reader engaged and interested in the story's outcome. It can be created by a variety of different techniques, including pacing, foreshadowing, and tension-building.

Pacing

Pacing is the speed at which the story progresses. A slow pace can build tension and create suspense by drawing out the reader's anticipation. Conversely, a rapid pace can create suspense by keeping the reader on edge and forcing them to pay close attention to the story's action.

Foreshadowing

Foreshadowing is a technique in which the author provides hints or clues about future events in the story. This can create suspense by making the reader wonder what will happen next and how the story will come to its conclusion.

Tension-Building

Tension-building is the process of creating an emotional reaction in the reader. By creating emotional turbulence and the feeling of unpredictability, tension building creates suspense in the reader, encouraging them to keep reading to find out what happens next.

Worksheet

Think carefully about the following questions:

1. What is suspense in literature, and how is it created?
2. What is pacing in literature, and how can it create suspense?
3. What is foreshadowing, and how can it create suspense?
4. What is tension-building, and how can it create suspense?

Answer these questions in your own words in the space provided.

1. Explain the difference between slow and rapid pacing, and how each might create suspense in the reader.

2. Think of a book you have read recently that utilized foreshadowing to create suspense. Describe the foreshadowing and how it impacted your experience while reading the book.
3. Describe a time when tension-building created suspense for you while reading or watching a movie. What emotions did you experience while going through that suspenseful part?

You have completed the lesson on creating suspense in literature!

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