

# Description

## SIMILES:

A simile describes something by comparing it to something else, using the words 'like' or 'as'.

Can you find the simile in the sentence below from chapter 5?

The dice was white with black spots and as large as a sheep.

Where is the simile in this sentence from chapter 17?

The dragon charged after the paper like a dog chasing a stick.



## ADJECTIVES:

An adjective is a word that describes a noun (the name of a thing or a place).

Can you find the adjectives in this sentence from chapter 17?

She flinched as the dragon let out another shattering wail, revealing rows of vicious teeth and a forked tongue.

# Description

## **ALLITERATION:**

Alliteration is when two or more words close together start with the same letter or sound.

Can you find the alliteration in this sentence from chapter 5?

Drift was almost completely covered by the snake, its scaly skin glinting in the spotlight.

# Description

## METAPHORS:

**A metaphor is a word or a phrase used to describe something as if it were something else.**

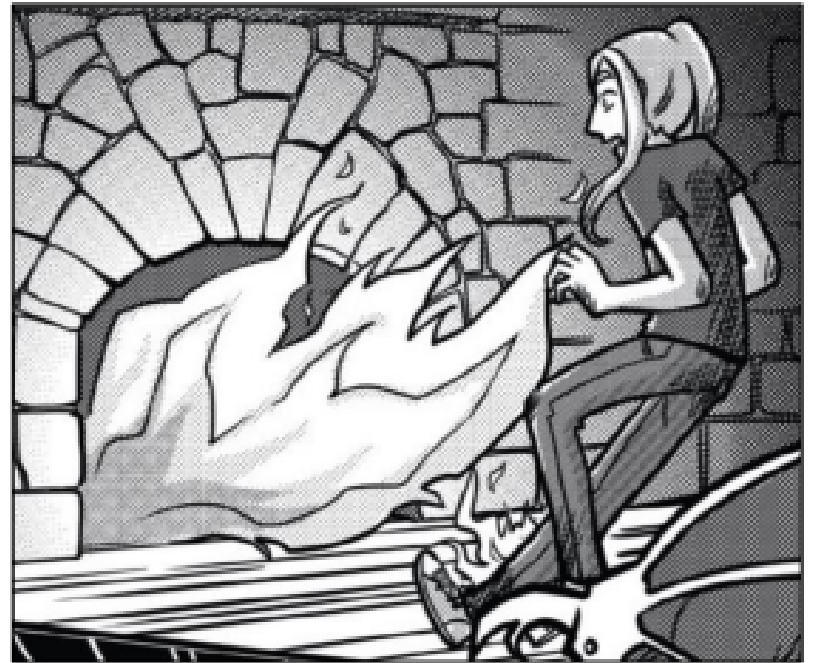
Here is a sentence from chapter 5. Can you tell which word makes it a metaphor?

The dice rocketed along and bounced off the wall opposite, eventually coming to land on a 2.

The dice can't actually move like a rocket, so saying it rocketed is a metaphor.

Let's try a sentence from chapter 17. Which word makes this a metaphor?

Large orange flames licked up Felix's legs.



# Description

## ONOMATOPOEIA:

An onomatopoeia is a word which sounds like what it means, like 'bang' or 'crash'.

Here is a sentence from chapter 5. Can you find the onomatopoeia?

Felix tensed as the snake hissed at Drift, its tongue flickering.

Can you find the onomatopoeia in this sentence from chapter 17?

The dragon pushed its front legs out of the chimney and its sharp claws cracked the stone floor instantly.

# Show, don't tell



Caspar froze solid. 'Those snakes almost look real!'

Drift laughed as he stood back up. 'I want to do that again!'

Felix tensed as the snake hissed at Drift... She watched, wide-eyed, as it started to wrap itself around his left leg.

# Short sentences



Here is a dramatic paragraph from chapter 17 of *Mutating Mansion*. Can you tell how Luke uses shorter sentences to increase the tension?

She held up the piece of paper. The dragon sniffed at it, smoke billowing out of its nostrils. It blinked. If this didn't work, Felix was toast.

As you can see, not every sentence has to be really short. However, using a short sentence every so often can make your writing more exciting to read.



# Short sentences

This is Luke's first attempt at writing chapter 5 before he changed it to add in some short sentences.

*The snake no longer looked painted because it was 3D and very alive, just like a real, giant snake. Felix tensed as the snake hissed at Drift and she watched, wide-eyed, as it started to wrap itself around his left leg. He gasped and tried to pull away, but it was no good because he was trapped within the square as the snake slithered up him.*