

Things to think about...

Suspense...

Lulling the reader into a false sense of security.

Building suspense, and making the reader wait.

I can really manipulate the reader with my setting. A stroll through this forest with friends on a summery afternoon creates one atmosphere, but alone in the same forest on a dark wintry night would feel very different. Now, I want to bring this setting to life. I am going to use all of my senses to do this.

As Morpurgo emphasises good writers should do, I am going to call on real life experiences to help me write an exciting, authentic and then invent some detail. Doing so so I can think about what I could feel, see, smell, hear etc at the time.

So I am going to imagine that I am actually there. I'm alone in the forest.

Showing things through the eyes of the character...She stared...

***As I made my way deeper into the forest, I felt tiny, just like an ant as I looked up to the giant trees that looked down on me. I shivered as the cool wind swept across my face and made the falling leaves dance around me. In the distance, I could hear the birds singing peacefully and it calmed me down. As I walked further into the forest, the smell of rotting leaves filled my nostrils. I pushed my scarf up to cover my face and went on. Suddenly, a rustling next to me stopped me in my tracks. What could it be? I slowly crept towards the noise, goose bumps appearing on my arms. I jumped back, a squirrel bounced rapidly up the tree.***

## Descriptive Settings: Forests and Woodland

### What Can I Describe?

bark  
berries  
birds  
brambles  
branches  
deer  
fallen leaves  
ferns  
foxes  
ground  
insects  
ivy  
mice  
moss  
pine cones  
spiders  
squirrels  
thickets  
trees  
trunks  
undergrowth

### How Can I Describe It?

abundant  
chirping  
creaking  
damp  
decaying  
earthy  
fallen  
gloomy  
humming  
impenetrable  
peaceful  
rotting  
rough  
serene  
shady  
silent  
stagnant  
sun-dappled  
tangled  
tranquil  
whistling

### What Can It Do?

bend  
creep  
govern  
groan  
jut  
perch  
protrude  
rise  
rustle  
scamper  
scramble  
scramble  
scurry  
settle  
shuffle  
slouch  
stumble  
sway  
twist  
weave  
whisper

### Examples of Effective Phrases

The rustling leaves sang a soothing melody...

...sun-dappled secrets being uncovered...

...scampered and scurried through a labyrinth of roots and fallen foliage...

The haunting shadows of branches danced across the floor...

...holding its majestic crown of leaves high...

