



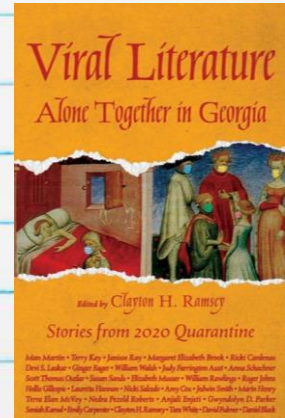
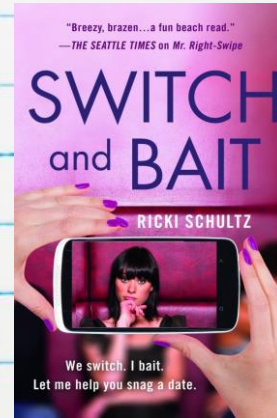
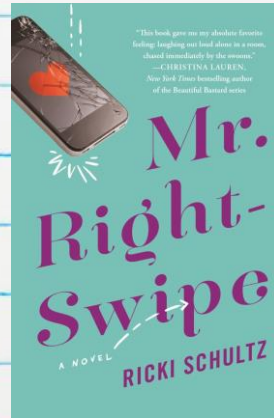
THE ART OF VOICE:

HOW TO MAKE YOUR WRITING COME TO LIFE

WHO - WHAT - WHERE - WHY - WHEN

RICKI CARDENAS

-author
-editor
-teacher



HOW

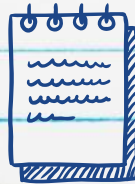
Reading!

Networking!

Conference-going!

Interviewing!

Freelance writing! (Writer's Digest Books, Northern Virginia Magazine,
various blogs)



VOICE

how an author sounds



VOICE

how a character sounds

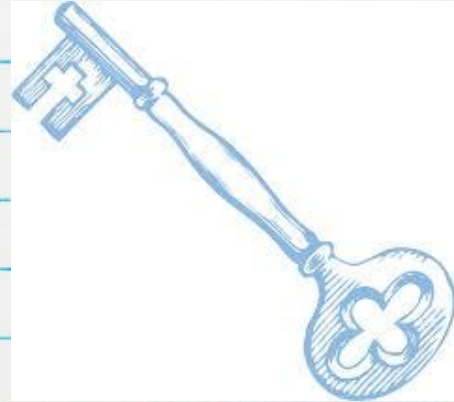
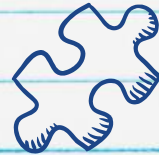
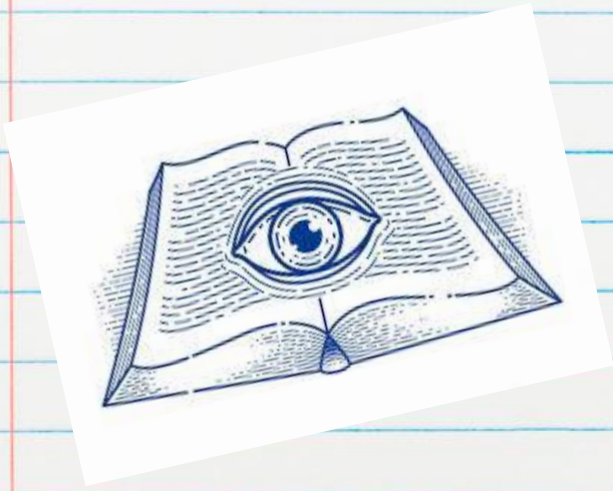


**Authenticity is key*

Can voice be taught?



What is the secret?



SHOW, DON'T TELL

- active voice/action verbs
- scenes
- characterization through action,
reaction, dialogue,
appearance,
& atmosphere



EXPERIENCE & ENGAGE



USE & OOZE

WHICH IS BETTER?

Michael was angry.



Michael took the stapler off his desk and hurled it toward me. Stunned, I froze as it whizzed past my face and exploded on the wall behind me.

WHY ISN'T IT BETTER?

Adjectives - limiting & subjective

Michael was angry.

Linking verb = WAS



WHY IS IT BETTER?

Actions give the reader an experience-a scene-more personality.

Michael took the stapler off his desk and hurled it toward me.

Stunned, I froze as it whizzed past my face and exploded on the wall behind me.

Action verbs = TOOK, HURLED, FROZE, WHIZZED, EXPLODED



COMMON LINKING VERBS

is are was were

am feel look seem

taste smell appear grow

become remain



VERBS & CONNOTATIONS

Cameron was happy.

Cameron slid on a smile.

Cameron beamed up at me.

Cameron smirked.



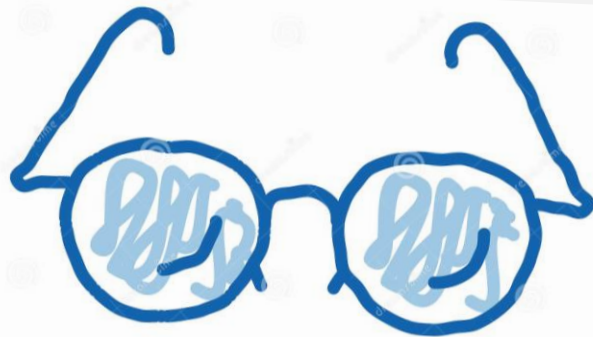
A STUDY OF VOICEY EXAMPLES

-genre

-characters

-setting

-relationships



WHAT DO WE KNOW?

Mr. and Mrs. Dursley, of number four, Privet Drive, were proud to say that they were perfectly normal, thank you very much. They were the last people you'd expect to be involved in anything strange or mysterious, because they just didn't hold with such nonsense.



WHAT DO WE KNOW?

It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen.



WHAT DO WE KNOW?

"Stop! Leave her alone!" Jimmy screamed.

The man pulled out a knife and turned toward Jimmy.

"No!" the woman cried. "Just take my purse and leave us alone!"



WHAT DO WE KNOW?

I shoot back the tequila, and it's smooth. No cheap stuff this time. Patron. No retching, no face to make. Just pure, unadulterated amnesia juice to parasail me off to my happy place before this idiot gets here. If he even shows up.



A STUDY OF A "TELLING" EXAMPLE

How could it be better?



C.S. LEWIS'S

THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE



Once there were four children whose names were Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy. This story is about something that happened to them when they were sent away from London because of the air-raids. They were sent to the house of an old professor who lived in the heart of the country, ten miles from the nearest railway station and two miles from the nearest post office. He had no wife and he lived in a very large house with a housekeeper called Mrs. Macready and three servants. (Their names were Ivy, Margaret and Betty, but they do not come into the story much.)



(CONTINUED)

He himself was a very old man with shaggy white hair which grew over most of his face as well as on his head, and they liked him almost at once; but on the first evening when he came out to meet them at the front door, he was so odd-looking that Lucy (who was the youngest) was a little afraid of him and Edmund (who was the next youngest) wanted to laugh and had to keep pretending he was blowing his nose to hide it.



HOW MANY INSTANCES OF TELLING CAN YOU FIND?

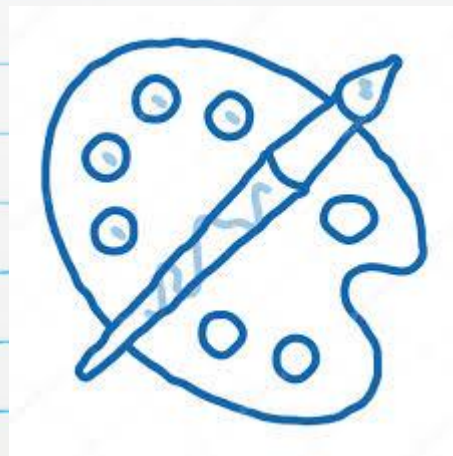
Once there were four children whose names were Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy. This story is about something that happened to them when they were sent away from London because of the air-raids. They were sent to the house of an old professor who lived in the heart of the country, ten miles from the nearest railway station and two miles from the nearest post office. He had no wife and he lived in a very large house with a housekeeper called Mrs. Macready and three servants. (Their names were Ivy, Margaret and Betty, but they do not come into the story much.)

(CONTINUED)

He himself was a very old man with shaggy white hair which grew over most of his face as well as on his head, and they liked him almost at once; but on the first evening when he came out to meet them at the front door, he was so odd-looking that Lucy (who was the youngest) was a little afraid of him and Edmund (who was the next youngest) wanted to laugh and had to keep pretending he was blowing his nose to hide it.

HOW DO YOU SHOW?

- *Action/reaction*
- *Dialogue*
- *Appearance*
- *Active description*
- *Atmosphere*
- *5 senses*
- *Sentence structure & Punctuation*



ACTION / REACTION

Fear

Fog billowed at Stefania's feet as she crept through the dark forest. The crack of a nearby stick stopped her in her tracks, and her knees quaked.

Boredom

Josiah yawned and glanced at the clock. The professor droned on about accounting information systems, and Josiah stared blankly at his sparse notes.

Happiness

Emma raced to the ice cream truck, and her eyes bugged at the size of the neon bomb pop.

DIALOGUE

Fear

"Who's there?"
Stefania whispered.

Boredom

"Forty-five more
minutes of this
windbag," Josiah
muttered.

Happiness

"It's the most beautiful
thing I've ever seen!"
Emma grinned at her
treat.

APPEARANCE & ACTIVE DESCRIPTION

Fear

Her dark bangs dripped into her eyes, and Stefania pulled her cloak tighter around her shoulders.

Boredom

Dr. Chen's soot-colored suit blended him into the gray of the cinderblock walls so well that Josiah had to squint to perceive the chameleon.

Happiness

Emma's braids bounced as she skipped back to the swing set.

ATMOSPHERE & THE 5 SENSES

Fear

Fog billowed at Stefania's feet as she crept through the dark forest. The crack of a nearby stick stopped her in her tracks, and her knees quaked.

Boredom

The warm air in the under ventilated room and the soft buzz of Chen's lecture lulled Josiah into a trance.

Happiness

The sun smiled down and licked at the popsicle. Emma giggled as lines of sticky sugar ran down her hands and arms.

SENTENCE STRUCTURE & PUNCTUATION

Fear

Crack.

A nearby stick?

*Stefania stopped. Held
her breath.*

*She waited—until the
night fell silent once
again.*

Boredom

*Another 45 minutes of
this. Awesome.*

Happiness

*Emma raced to the ice
cream truck, and her
eyes bugged at the size
of the neon bomb pop.
It's the most beautiful
thing I've ever seen!"
Emma grinned.*

CHALLENGE

Take the opening paragraph of LWW and write a scene that is active, instead of a big passive paragraph.

(Sorry, C.S. Lewis!)



How can you show that they're siblings?

How can you show their ages?

How can you show the time period?

Their situation? Their feelings about the professor?

Where they are?



C.S. LEWIS'S *THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE*

Once there were four children whose names were Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy. This story is about something that happened to them when they were sent away from London because of the air-raids. They were sent to the house of an old professor who lived in the heart of the country, ten miles from the nearest railway station and two miles from the nearest post office. He had no wife and he lived in a very large house with a housekeeper called Mrs. Macready and three servants. (Their names were Ivy, Margaret and Betty, but they do not come into the story much.)

(CONTINUED)

He himself was a very old man with shaggy white hair which grew over most of his face as well as on his head, and they liked him almost at once; but on the first evening when he came out to meet them at the front door, he was so odd-looking that Lucy (who was the youngest) was a little afraid of him and Edmund (who was the next youngest) wanted to laugh and had to keep pretending he was blowing his nose to hide it.

TO RECAP...



Voice



-pertains to **AUTHOR**
and **CHARACTER**

Authenticity

-means you have to do
the work & **BE**
INTENTIONAL

SDT

-that's the secret

Experience & Engage

-by using & oozing
(action verbs &
authenticity)

Adjectives

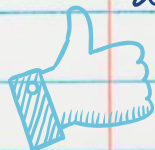
-are lame

#seewhatIdidthere



Verbs

-crisp & clarify
-vivacious & versatile
#alliteration



a special apology to C.S. Lewis





E-mail: rickicardibooks@gmail.com



Website: rickicardenas.com

THANKS!

Connect with me:



Twitter

@RickiCardi



Instagram

@rickicardibooks



Facebook

<https://facebook.com/rickicardibooks>



CREDITS

Special thanks to all the people who made and released these awesome resources for free:

- *Presentation template by SlidesCarnival*
- *Photographs by Unsplash*