

As you write your draft...

Directions: Read and discuss the following examples. When you write a story, remember to include details, explain, use vivid descriptions, be specific, and appeal to the senses. Look for more examples in other stories.

1. Include Details

The stream came winding toward us over and under mossy logs. It tumbled through the remains of the abandoned beaver dam, and ran like quicksilver across the beaver meadow where meadow larks added their music to that of the water.

Rascal
Sterling North

2. Explain

Snow fell and the wind piled it up around our hut so we had to dig a tunnel to get out. People fell sick and died. Scarcely a day went by that you did not hear a chant for the dead, the wind blowing and the voices singing. Oftentimes it was hard to tell one from the other. It was then, at the time the big snow melted when so many were dying, that I made up my mind.

Sing Down the Moon
Scott O'Dell

3. Use Vivid Descriptions

Buck rushed at the splintering wood, sinking his teeth into it, surging and wrestling with it. Wherever the hatchet fell on the outside, he was there on the inside, snarling and growling...

The Call of the Wild
Jack London

4. Be Specific

I fed Charley, gave him a limited promenade, and hit the road. And icy mist covered the hills and froze on my windshield.

Travels with Charley
John Steinbeck

5. Appeal to the Senses

He leaped into the hole. The stench of the wolf's wound was almost unbearable. At one shoulder the fur had been torn away. The exposed skin was filthy, clotted with dried blood, oozing a horrible-smelling wetness.

The Good Dog
Avi