

## Four Ways to Write Inside One Small Moment of Time

Not every story includes all of these techniques,  
but weaving them together helps a writer bring a very small moment to life.

*Adapted from the work of Amy Ludwig Vanderwater*

<p><b>Actions</b></p> <p>What small movements did the character's bodies make?</p> <p>As soon as the words left my mouth, I knew I had hurt her feelings. She flinched, taking a small step back and turning her eyes toward the floor before she turned and walked away.</p>	<p><b>Thoughts and Feelings</b></p> <p>How were people feeling? What were they thinking?</p> <p>I was ashamed of myself. I should have planned my words more carefully, and I would have, had I not let my anger get the best of me.</p>
<p><b>Descriptions</b></p> <p>How do people, places, and things look, sound, smell, taste, or feel?</p> <p>It was a long, cold, and lonely walk home. The trees were barren now, waiting for the first snow fall of the season. Somehow, knowing that I hurt my best friend made the day seem even grayer.</p>	<p><b>Dialogue</b></p> <p>What important things do people say to one another?</p> <p>"How was your day?" my mom asked when I got home.</p> <p>"You would not have been proud of me today," I told her. "I really lost my temper. I may have lost a friend, too."</p>



## Tinkering with Your Writing

Use these four sets of prompts to tinker  
with the four techniques we've studied together!

Actions	Thoughts and Feelings
<p>Think about how the people in your story feel, and then think about where these feelings might show up in small body actions.</p> <p>For instance, if someone is excited:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What would his eyes be doing?</li><li>• How would her arms be moving?</li><li>• What would his feet be doing?</li><li>• How would his hands be moving?</li></ul>	<p>Look back into your small moment story, and think about where you might use some of these sentence starters:</p> <p>I wondered..... I wished..... I worried that..... I hoped..... I thought about..... I remembered.....</p>
Descriptions	Dialogue
<p>Think about how you might use your five senses to describe:</p> <p>People Places Weather Animals Objects Nature</p>	<p>Think about what people said during these particular moments:</p> <p>The very beginning of your story Moments when people felt things deeply Moments when problems were discovered Moments when problems were solved The very end of your story</p>