

Make Sentences Move

1. My great-uncle Silas used to live in a small stone reed-thatched cottage on the edge of a pine wood, where nightingales sang passionately in great numbers through early summer nights and on into the mornings and often still in the afternoon.

Compare

1. The guard, eight little Dyak soldiers, stood to attention as Mr. Warburton passed. He noted with satisfaction that their bearing was martial, their uniforms neat and clean, and their guns shining. They were a credit to him.
2. A tiny brown, glittering creature, the fly soared up to the ceiling, sped like a bullet past the child's ears, collided with the walls, and rebounded in noisy spirals.
1. The flames—and theirs was a strange music—roared loud in the wintry air—red, greenish, copper and gold—licking and leaping their way from strand to strand up and up. . .

Practice

Continuity and Leaps

In the predawn gloom of a Norwegian winter morning, two men in a stolen car pulled to a halt in front of the National Gallery, Norway's preeminent art museum. They left the engine running and raced across the snow. Behind the bushes along the museum's front wall they found the ladder they had stashed away earlier that night. Silently, they leaned the ladder against the wall.

A guard inside the museum, his rounds finished, basked in the warmth of the basement security room. . .

Purpose

1. Narrate: Joe walked slowly down the street, thinking hard.
2. Describe: The street was lined with apple trees, all covered with white blossoms and giving off a sweet smell.
3. Give someone's reactions to happenings or pictures: But Joe didn't move.
4. Give someone's thoughts: "If only I hadn't said that," Joe thought.
5. Give someone's spoken words: "What a fool I am!" he said.
6. State a fact: Joe was fifteen years old; he hadn't cried since he was a kid.
7. Explain something: His father had always told him that men don't cry.
8. State an opinion or make a comment: But sometimes what our fathers tell us turns out not to be true.

Practice