

How Sentences Grow

I. "This Is the House That Jack Built" (A classic Mother Goose poem)

This is the farmer sowing his corn,
That kept the cock that crowed in the morn,
That waked the priest all shaven and shorn,
That married the man all tattered and torn,
That kissed the maiden all forlorn,
That milked the cow with the crumpled horn,
That tossed the dog,
That worried the cat
That killed the rat,
That ate the malt
That lay in the house that Jack built.

II. (From Virginia Tufte)

He went to speak to Mrs. Bean.
She was tiny among the pillows.
Her small toothless mouth was open like an O.
Her skin was stretched thin and white over her bones.
Her huge eye sockets and eyes were in a fixed infant-like stare.
And her sparse white hair was short and straggling over her brow.

III. The time was early. The time was morning. The place was a town. The town was small. The town was near a highway. The boy was young. The boy was hungry. The boy was in danger. The boy did not look to the left. The boy did not look to the right. The boy climbed the path. The path belonged to the city hall.

** The girl raised the flag. (a kernel sentence)