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**6 Traits: WORD CHOICE**

1. Use ACTION VERBS to show what’s happening. (called, stepped, hung, though, swung, raised, pulled, watched, dropped, ran) What did they do—pick a LIVELY VERB to say it.

2. Use the EXACT WORDS a character spoke (“Strike two!” the umpire called.) What did he/she say?

3. Show the FEELINGS of a character by WHAT HE DOES. (hung his head, heartbeat throbbing in my ears) How did the person’s body react to action or feelings?

4. Paint pictures with SPECIFIC WORDS or groups of words. (I raised the bat over my shoulder and waiting, I dropped the bat and ran and ran and ran, first base.)

5. Use specific NAMES of months, people, streets, mountains, trees, or oceans. (October, maples, birches, oaks)

6. Use PICTURE VERBS that paint pictures in the reader’s mind. (glows, spark, flicker, shoot, fan, grow, ignites, guide)

7. Try to use SIMILES OR METAPHORS. (glows like a campfire, oaks shoot flames of orange and red, noon sun ignites an autumn blaze, that will guide winter our way)

***\*\*PAINT A PICTURE WITH WORDS\*\****