

17. TITLE:

L I S T

SENTENCES

EXAMPLES:

- a. It was a dark, long, leafy lane.
- b. She had a cold, cruel cackle.
- c. It was a cold, wet, miserable and misty morning.

EXPLANATION:

A *List* sentence is the most simple sentence form included in this book.

It has no less than three and no more than four adjectives before the noun and, when used judiciously, it creates a striking visual impression in the reader's mind. If combined with alliteration it can also be dramatic in its patterned use of language.

TEACHING TIPS:

In order to introduce list sentences, I show pupils a simple sentence with one word which could obviously be made more powerful. For example:

It was a bad day.

I then underline the word which could be made more powerful (bad) and the pupils suggest alternatives. A typical response is:

wet, cloudy, rainy, dreadful, stormy

I then underline the first letter of each of their suggested words and ask for any other words they could use which begin with these letters. These are used to produce a list:

<u>w</u>	<u>c</u>	<u>r</u>	<u>s</u>	<u>d</u>
wet	cloudy	rainy	stormy	dreadful
windy	cold	rotten	showery	damp
wild				dingy

Finally we combine three or four of these to construct the list sentence:

It was a cold, cloudy, wild and windy day.

N.B. Note the word *and* between the final two adjectives in the list sentence