#### WORD CHOICE

# **Example of what I could ask the writer:**

What would happen if you changed that word to another word?

# **Example of what I could ask the reader:**

What did you think about this choice of word?

# Example of what I could say as the writer:

I chose the word 'wolf' to show that the dog is fierce and wild

#### DETAIL

# Example of what I could ask the writer:

What kind of shoes would she wear? And would they be shiny and clean or scuffed and scruffy?

# **Example of what I could ask the reader:**

What did the description make you think about the character?

#### Example of what I could say as the writer:

I wanted the character to have shiny shoes so that the reader would think of her as being very clean and proper

#### SENTENCE STRUCTURE

#### Example of what I could ask the writer:

When I read this sentence, I see the mountain first and then the polar bear – was that what you wanted me to see? If not, how could you move things around so it is the polar bear I see first?

#### Example of what I could ask the reader:

Do you think this sentence is effective in getting the reader to imagine the mountain first..?

# Example of what I could say as the writer:

I structured my sentence this way because I wanted the reader to imagine the mountain first, then the polar bear - so the polar bear is emerging out of the mountains...

#### CLICHE

#### Example of what I could ask the writer:

Saying 'as green as grass' is something we hear or read lots so I don't think it creates a very strong image. What kind of green is it? What do you want to make your reader see, or hear or feel? Can you think of a simile for green that will be fresher and more original?

#### Example of what I could ask the reader:

Do you think this simile could be better? Or could I replace the simile with something else?

#### Example of what I could say as the writer:

I could describe the green as something like 'emerald green' instead, to...

I want to keep the simile 'green as grass' because I wanted to create a simple image that...

RHYTHM	TENSE
KHTTHIVI	I EINSE
Example of what I could ask the writer:  I love the way that the two halves of that sentence balance each other — it gives the sentence a lovely balanced rhythm. Read it aloud — can you hear it?  Example of what I could ask the reader: What impression do you get from the alliteration I've used here?  Example of what I could say as the writer: I chose to write a long sentence with lots of food items listed one after the other, chained together with 'and', to create a rhythm that gives the impression of endless items going through the til	Example of what I could ask the writer: What would happen if you rewrote that paragraph in the present tense? What would change about how you story is being told?  Example of what I could ask the reader: Do you think writing this in the present tense makes the action feel more immediate?  Example of what I could say as the writer: I chose to write in the present tense so that the reader feels the action is happening there and then in front of them
REPETITION	
Example of what I could ask the writer: Let's listen to those three sentences – the repetition of 'I am' at the beginning of each one makes me feel I am right alongside your character.	
Example of what I could ask the reader: What do you think about the repetition of 'I am' at the beginning of these sentences?	
Example of what I could say as the writer: I chose to repeat 'I am' at the beginning of the sentence to make the reader feel like they're close to me	

#### **NARRATIVE STRUCTURE**

# **Example of what I could ask the writer:**

When I read the first page of your story, I was wondering what's the story problem here? What needs to be sorted as the story develops?

# Example of what I could ask the reader:

What did you think about the ending and how it links back to the start?

# Example of what I could say as the writer:

I wanted to end with the lost girl speaking because this links back to the start, to show that she's not lost anymore

#### **CHARACTER**

# **Example of what I could ask the writer:**

In the first part of your story, you described the dragon as a dragon who didn't like fire. I really liked that because it was so odd! But here, he seems to be back to being a 'normal' dragon – how could you develop that idea of a dragon who doesn't like fire?

# Example of what I could ask the reader:

Let's look at this paragraph here describing the dragon...what do you think about this idea?

# **Example of what I could say as the writer:**

I liked the idea of a dragon who doesn't like fire because it surprises the reader – it's the opposite of what we expect from a dragon

#### **VIEWPOINT**

# Example of what I could ask the writer:

What would happen if, instead of you telling the story as a narrator, you told it from the father's point of view?

#### Example of what I could ask the reader:

How do you think this would change if I told the story from a different character's point of view?

# Example of what I could say as the writer:

I chose to tell the story from the narrator's point of view so that the reader would 'see' the father through different eyes

#### SHOW NOT TELL

# **Example of what I could ask the writer:**

I'm really interested in your cat character, Grimble. You tell me he is grumpy and badtempered. I wonder if you can think of a way to describe Grimble that will show me he is grumpy and bad-tempered?

#### Example of what I could ask the reader:

Have you got any ideas about how I could make this cat seem grumpy? What did the cat's name make you think?

#### Example of what I could say as the writer:

I chose the name 'Grimble' because it sounds like 'Grumble' and the cat is supposed to be very grumpy and grumbly

#### DIALOGUE

# **Example of what I could ask the writer:**

You have a really long section of dialogue here – almost a page. What do you want the dialogue to reveal or explain in terms of your story? Do you think you could do that in just two or three exchanges of dialogue?

# Example of what I could ask the reader:

Were you able to follow the dialogue? Is there anything I could take out or say differently do you think?

# Example of what I could say as the writer:

I wanted the dialogue to show something about the relationship between the speakers...

# **ENGAGING THE READER**

#### Example of what I could ask the writer:

I was really gripped by what you wrote here. Perhaps it was because you... I was less gripped by this part of what you wrote. Perhaps you could e.g. add in some dialogue to really bring the scene alive; use a different tense, like the present tense...

# **Example of what I could ask the reader:**

Do you think these sentences here are effective in building up a sense of excitement? Could I do anything differently?

# Example of what I could say as the writer:

I wrote a sequence of short sentences here describing the action to build up tension, but I didn't want to include dialogue because I thought it would change the atmosphere

#### **HELPING THE READER UNDERSTAND**

#### Example of what I could ask the writer:

I didn't completely understand what was happening here. Perhaps you could work on e.g. how to make the sentences more concise

# Example of what I could ask the reader:

Do you understand what's happening here? What do you think the character is like?

# Example of what I could say as the writer:

I was trying to explain a sequence of events in detail here...

#### AFFECTING THE READER

# Example of what I could ask the writer:

When I read this I felt e.g. sad, scared, amused. Perhaps that's because you e.g. 'show not tell' the reader how the character feels by describing...

# Example of what I could ask the reader:

How do you think the character feels here? How do you feel at this moment?

# Example of what I could say as the writer:

I used these words because I wanted the reader to feel sorry for the character

#### **DRAWING ON READING**

# **Example of what I could ask the writer:**

This reminds me of a book...

# Example of what I could ask the reader:

Does this remind you of this character?

# Example of what I could say as the writer:

I was thinking about a character from this book when I wrote this description

#### **AUTHORIAL INTENTION**

# **Example of what I could ask the writer:**

How do you want to make your reader think when they read this?

#### **Example of what I could ask the reader:**

What do you think of when you read this?

# Example of what I could say as the writer: I wanted my reader to be reminded of...

DRAWING ON EXPERIENCE

# **Example of what I could ask the writer:**

Can you think of a situation where something similar to this has happened to you?

# Example of what I could ask the reader:

Did this make you think of anything in particular?

# Example of what I could say as the writer:

Here, I was thinking about my own memories of being in school and this helped me to imagine...

Adapted from Craft of Writing Framework, Open University, University of Exeter and Arvon.

# Example of what I could ask the writer: Which words/sentences/sections are you happy with and which do you think need revising? So let's look at how you have used [... e.g. repetition; detail; tense; structure; viewpoint...] Example of what I could ask the reader: What do you think about the way I've...would you change anything? Example of what I could say as the writer: I think I move too suddenly from describing the scene to the story problem, so I need to develop that...