



EduLIT

# LITERACY CLUB

THEME: CREATING A STORY

PART 3 OF A 4 WEEK SERIES: CLIMAX

TODAY'S THEME:  
**CLIMAX**

## IDIOM OF THE WEEK:

**on edge** - a state of nervousness and anticipation

## RIDDLE OF THE WEEK?

The more  
there is the  
less you see.  
What is it?

## WORD OF THE WEEK:

suspense (noun), suspenseful (adjective)

### Definition:

a state or feeling of excited or anxious uncertainty about what may happen.

### Synonym:

tension, strain, apprehension, anxious

### Exercise:

- Create a sentence with the word of the week
- Think of an antonym and try to also put it in a sentence

## GAME

1. Get into groups
2. Act out a moment of climax, include at least one the following situations:
  - Moments in which truth/secret is revealed
  - Moment of shock
  - Moment of surprise
  - Moment of confrontation





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# PROBLEM OF THE WEEK: HOW TO CREATE SUSPENSE?

## ACTIVITIES:

1. Group leader reads out a passage from a book at which a moment of **climax** takes place.
2. Pupils discuss how the **build up** of tension before the climax is created and how tension is **released** after it. Take into account mood and atmosphere changes, possibly created by:
  - **Sentence structure** (Are there more *long* and *complex* sentences, or *shorter* and more *simple* ones? What **effect** does this have?)
  - Descriptions of the **setting** (i.e. at what *time* and what *place* does the climax take place? What does this make you feel?)
  - Use of **dialogue** (How does it *change* throughout the extract? Are the characters nervous, scared? Are there *conflicts* that become more apparent?)
  - **Actions** of characters (Does the action *increase* throughout the passage? Does the *significance* of the action change?)
  - A **manipulation of time** (Does time pass *slowly*? Does it take a lot of sentences to describe a simple action? Or is the narrative *fast-paced* and *action-packed*?)
3. In pairs, pupils read their own books and share how a particular climax is presented.

## CREATIVE WRITING:

- Get into groups of 3
- Plan and then write a passage of a story in which the suspense builds to a climax.
- Plan the passage together (the characters, the setting and the basics of the story).
- Then split up and one person writes the build-up scene, one person writes the climax scene and another the resolution.
- Help one another and then share your story with the rest of the group

## WEEKLY CHALLENGE:

Write a suspenseful passage continuing from the following prompt, take into account everything discussed in today's session.

"The silence had never been so loud. From her hiding place in the corner, she could see a shadow approaching. The floorboards creaked with every step he took..."