Descriptive Writing Toolkit

Expanded noun phrase

Noun	cow
simple noun phrase	a cow
Noun phrase expanded by an adjective or two	a round-bellied, inquisitive cow

Fronted adverbial

Can be used to describe:

the **time** something happens,
e.g. **Before sunrise,** Darius crept into the beast's cave.
the **frequency** (how often) something happens,
e.g. **Every so often,** Darius could hear the beast's ferocious snore.
the **place** something happens,
e.g. **At the back of the cave,** the terrifying creature began to stir.
the **manner** something happens,
e.g. **As quick as a flash,** Darius bounded behind a nearby rock.
the **possibility** (how likely) something will/has happen(ed),
e.g. **Almost certainly,** the deadly beast was nearing closer.

Amazing verbs – this is simply the children using more interesting verbs in their writing (which can be helped with a thesaurus).

e.g. whispered, announced, mumbled, gazed, peeked, observed, wondered, judged, deliberated…

Alliteration, this is when a phrase has words together that start with similar sounds.

e.g while I **n**odded **n**early **n**apping… we **b**eat on, **b**oats against the current **b**orne **b**ack…

Onomatopoeia – using words that sound how they are spelt.

Figurative language such as similes, metaphors and personification.

Smilies, this is when something is described **as** or **like** something else
Eg. They fought **like** cats and dogs; you were **as** brave as a lion; she was **as** strong as an ox.
Metaphors this is when you compare two things but do **not** use the word 'as' or 'like'.
Eg. He is a shining star; the falling leaves are dancers, she was a roaring bear.
Personification is when you give an animal or object human like characteristics.
Eg. The thunder grumbled in the distance; the leaves waved in the wind; the trees begged for water.