



Step 3: Tightening Tension

Five + 1 Senses

CURRICULUM LINKS

Sequence of content F–10:

Literature: Creating literature

- **Creating literary texts**
Creating their own literary texts based on ideas, features and structures of texts experienced
- **Experimentation and adaptation**
Creating a variety of texts, including multimodal texts, adapting ideas and devices from literary texts

Literacy: Interacting with others

- **Listening and speaking interactions**
Purposes and contexts through which students engage in listening and speaking interactions

NAPLAN LINKS

Narrative Marking Criterion
Audience (6 marks)

- The writer's capacity to orient, engage and affect the reader

Ideas (5 marks)

- The creation, selection and crafting of ideas for a narrative

Character & setting (4 marks)

- Setting: The development of a sense of place, time and atmosphere

Learning Intention

Generate ideas for a tension scene using the Five + 1 Senses.

Success Criteria

Beginner	1–2 marks	The tension scene lacks strength.
Intermediate	3–5 marks	The tension scene needs to be expanded further to help build the suspense.
Expert	6–7 marks	The tension scene is strong and builds to a climax.

Activate Prior Knowledge

Prior to this lesson, explore and discuss some examples of great tension scenes:

- Use the Five + 1 Senses brainstorming template on page 4 to record what the characters see, hear, touch, taste, smell and feel in picture books, fairy tales, multimedia, movies, commercials, poetry, action rhymes and music (see *Early Years Writing Manual* pp 42–3).
- Show students a tension picture and get them to describe the image using the Five + 1 Senses (see *Early Years Writing Manual* p 44).
- Tell a scary story and discuss how the tension escalates.



I Do – Model the Technique

- **Explain technique:** Use the Five + 1 Senses (see, hear, touch, taste, smell and feel) to generate ideas for a tension scene.
- **Model strategy:** As a class, discuss what you might see, hear, touch, taste, smell and feel in a churchyard (or graveyard) late at night. List the ideas on the board. For example:

<p><u>I SEE</u></p> <p>Tall monuments Broken headstones Names, births and deaths carved in stone Tattered flowers Broken bricks in grass Darkness</p>	<p><u>I HEAR</u></p> <p>Wind Eerie rustling Heart beating Breath coming fast</p>	<p><u>I TOUCH</u></p> <p>Cold, too cold on skin Trees or bushes Cobwebs on skin Coat hugged tighter</p>
<p><u>I TASTE</u></p> <p>Fear, bitter in mouth Strange tingling on tongue</p>	<p><u>I SMELL</u></p> <p>Jonquils – too sweet, and out of season Something old, very old Newly mown grass Cold air</p>	<p><u>I FEEL</u></p> <p>Alone Eerie Growing fear Frightened Determination Total panic</p>

- **Model writing:** Use the following exemplar to demonstrate how to use the ideas to write a great tension scene. For example:

If only I hadn't been running late, I would never have taken a short cut through the churchyard.

The night was cold, far too cold. I hugged my coat tighter around me. It was weirdly dark too. There were all these shadows around me, tombstones and monuments of people long dead. Names, births, deaths...and now the broken bricks and long grass tell the true story – they are forgotten.

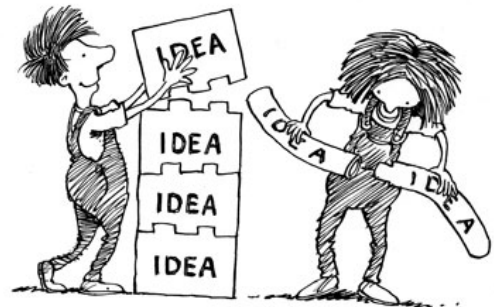
If only I had started home earlier. It would not have been so dark. And so cold...

The wind picked up, cutting through me. I smelt freshly mown grass; someone was paid to care. But over it all was a smell of sweetness. Too sweet.

I put my head down and walked faster.

Then the scream pierced the darkness. Heart pounding, I ran.

If only, if only, if only...



We Do – Group Work

- Form groups of four and ask them to choose one of the following topics:
 - A haunted house
 - A football match (or netball, tennis, basketball, etc.)
 - A snow storm
 - A bungy jump.
- Give each group a copy of the Five + 1 Senses brainstorming template on page 4.
- Give students FIVE minutes to brainstorm ideas for their tension scene using the Five + 1 Senses for their chosen topic.



You Do – Individual Activity

- Give students FOUR minutes to write a tension scene using the results of their brainstorming. They should write their scene individually. Ready, set, WRITE!

Feedback

- Ask students to share their tension scene with their group.
- Rate each tension scene using the success criteria on page 1.
- Ask each group to share their top-rated tension scene with the class.

Review

In this lesson, we have learnt how to use the Five + 1 Senses to generate ideas for a tension scene.

Taking it Further

- Repeat the activity for other tension scene topics (see *Narrative Writing Manual* p 23 and *Writing Essentials* pp 7–8, 44–6).
- Act out a typical movie tension scene (see *Narrative Writing Manual* p 22)
- Explore other strategies for generating tension scene ideas, e.g. ‘Fear Factor List’ (see *Writing Essentials* p 48, Step 3 Lesson Plan: Fear Factor List on *Seven Steps Online*).
- Run a range of Tightening Tension activities to build muscle memory (see Step 3 Action Activities on *Seven Steps Online*).



Five + 1 Senses Brainstorming Template

<u>I SEE</u>	<u>I HEAR</u>
<u>I TOUCH</u>	<u>I TASTE</u>
<u>I SMELL</u>	<u>I FEEL</u>