

What It Looks Like

Use these 'before and after' writing samples to show the impact of these techniques and to model what you expect from your students.

Year 3 Writing Sample

Topic: The astonishing bicycle

Before

One day, Laura and Katie found a bicycle that was sitting by itself. It was weird, it had these large boosters on the back. Katie and Laura were looking at it when all of a sudden it started pedalling away from them! It was pedalling all by itself and no-one was on it!

'One day' is a clichéd start that doesn't grip the reader. Using a Sizzling Starts technique would be more engaging.

There is action here, but it is buried. It would be much more engaging to start in the middle of the action.

After

'Look, a bicycle! It is a weird one, it has got boosters on the back,' said Laura. Laura and her friend Katie walked over to the bicycle to have a better look at it. But as they got nearer to the bicycle it started pedalling away! 'That was strange,' said Katie. 'It had no-one on it!'

Amelia, Year 3, Kalamunda Christian School

Starting with dialogue draws the reader right into the scene. It also establishes what is happening.

This part of the dialogue makes the reader curious – how is the bicycle pedalling away with no one on it?

