

Creative Writing 1 / Week 2

Word Magic.

Today we hunt for the sharper words.



*Dynamic Nouns & Action Verbs —
two small tools that turn flat sentences into pictures.*

~ find a chair · open the page ~



What we'll try today.

These aren't tests. They're invitations — you'll try them, and you'll be a sharper writer by the time you've done them.

01

Catch a flat word

Spot a flat noun or verb hiding in your sentence — and trade it for a sharper one.

02

Draw your Heart Map

Fill in four slices with things you love — people, places, passions, memories.

03

Write a tiny scene

Three to five sentences long — with two magic nouns and two magic verbs hiding inside.

...not faster writing — truer writing.

*name it, move it,
and the reader is there.*

Two kinds of magic.

Word magic comes in two flavors — one names a picture the reader can see, the other shows how something moves.

Naming magic

Specific people, places, things — the ones you can see when the word is said.

flat
a dog → ^{magic} ***the golden retriever***

Or the pizza, building, kid, song, friend — anything that's exactly itself.

Motion magic

Verbs that show how — so we can drop the extra "very" and "quickly" we don't need.

flat
walked quickly → ^{magic} ***power-walked***

Today we'll reach for both. One noun, one verb, then maybe another, and another.

—— *Together they turn boring sentences into pictures the reader can almost touch.*

The Boring Sentence **Rescuer.**

*"On a scale of one to ten
— how exciting is this
story?"*

the boring sentence

The man went to the store.

swap one

man



astronaut • detective • chef

swap two

went



sprinted • zoomed • stumbled

swap three

store



rocket ship • crime scene • bakery

target

The astronaut sprinted to the rocket.

Generic words leave readers in the dark. Specific words turn on a movie in the reader's brain.

Tool one of three

Naming magic.

Name the exact thing — not the general group. The reader should see it.

flat

dog



magic

the golden retriever

flat

food



magic

sizzling pepperoni pizza

flat

building



magic

a crumbling skyscraper

if you can almost see it, you named it well.

Motion magic.

Show how — one motion, not two with a "very" stuck on.

flat

walked quickly



magic

power-walked

flat

ate fast



magic

devoured

flat

looked closely



magic

peered

 *a verb should almost move you when you say it.*

Remember

*one strong
verb **beats**
a weak one
+ an adverb
every time*

Your Heart Map.

Magic words come from things you love. Put yours on the page — named in specifics.

01

People & Pets

*my golden
retriever Buster*

02

A Place I Love

*grandma's porch
during a thunderstorm*

03

A Passion

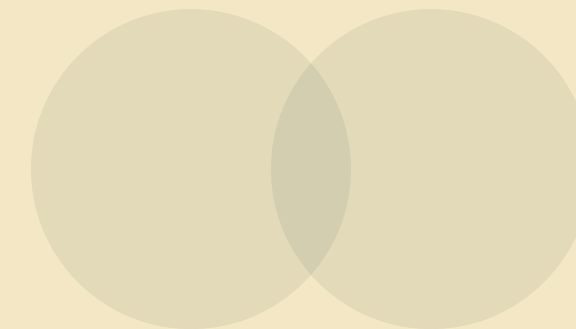
*soccer goalie
drills at the park*

04

A Memory

*building Lego
castles in March*

*your map,
not anyone
else's.*



Four real things. Real names. Specific names.

Twenty minutes — the quiet part

Twenty minutes of making.

Two steps, in order. Quiet voices, please.

~ seven min

01

Fill in your Heart Map

Add four or five names — people, places, things you love. Make each one *specific*.

~ thirteen min

02

Write a tiny scene

Pick *one* idea from your map. Three to five sentences long. Place it on the page.

if you can

tuck two magic nouns inside • tuck two magic verbs inside • green-mark the nouns • yellow-mark the verbs

lifelines if a sentence still feels flat

Three *rescue* moves.

Keep these on the corner of your desk — try one before you wave me over.

01

Reach past "good"

"Good," "nice," "big" all hide. Try *fierce*,
shy, *crumpled*, *brand-new*.

example

"a good dog" →

"a shy, curly-tailed dog"

02

Hunt a stronger verb

What could *went* become? Try *sprinted*,
tiptoed, *slid*, or whatever fits.

example

"she went up the stairs" →

"she crept up the stairs"

03

Read it once out loud

Where it goes soft, that's where the magic
word wants to live. Rewrite just that part.

*say it under your breath. If your mouth
stumbles, your reader will too.*

—— *first try one — if it still feels flat, try a second.*

◆ Next week we begin...

The Author's Chair *& Share.*

Two writers sit in the chair and read their scene aloud. After each, two friends speak — one kind word, then one small swap.

one friend speaks

Praise

"I loved the magic word [word] because it helped me picture..."

pick one word they picked well, and say why.

one friend offers

Polish

"I was curious about [character or moment] — maybe you could swap [flat word] for something like [your idea]?"

offer one swap, gently. The writer decides.

~ bring a Heart Map next time — same room, same table ~

*Five things, **your writer's kit.***

Most of these are already in the room. The two highlighters are new this week — one of each.



Whiteboard & chart markers

For the live rescue at the start of class.



Your Heart Map (the big one)

A heart divided into four sections. Yours to fill.



Notebook & pencil

The page waits. The pencil waits back.

naming magic

Green highlighter

every specific noun

Reach for green first.

motion magic

Yellow highlighter

every verb that moves

Then yellow what the noun did.