

Mr Dewdney's Three Top Tips for Writing

1 Read

Trying to produce a piece of writing when you don't read much is like trying to create a beautiful melody when you've never heard any music before. Pretty tricky! Reading a lot gives you ideas and increases your vocabulary. It's also a fun way to spend your time in between waiting for your latest game to download to your Xbox or while waiting for that annoying advert on YouTube to finish. Seriously, read. Read a lot!



2 Write about what you know about

I know this sounds obvious, but it's really difficult to write about something you don't know much about. Ever found yourself staring frustrated at a blank piece of paper? You're probably trying to write about something you're a bit clueless about.

Try writing about things which you are an 'expert' at. For example, if you need to write a short story, make it as much about you as you can. Don't write a story set in New York if you've never been there. Set it in your home town (or somewhere very much like it). You will find your descriptions flow much more effortlessly from your pen/keyboard. If you need to write a newspaper article, read some newspapers and copy the way they look and 'sound'. Steal some phrases from an existing article and make them work for yours. Do you need to write a report about tigers/rivers in Paraguay/Mr Dewdney's favourite snacks? Then do your research! Read as much as you can about your topic and make notes (admittedly a tricky skill in itself) and then you will find it much easier to produce your written masterpiece.



3 Think nouns and not adjectives

Want to sound like a primary school -age writer? Then crack on with your never-ending list of adjectives before a boring noun:

The colossal, ancient, majestic tree towered over the house.

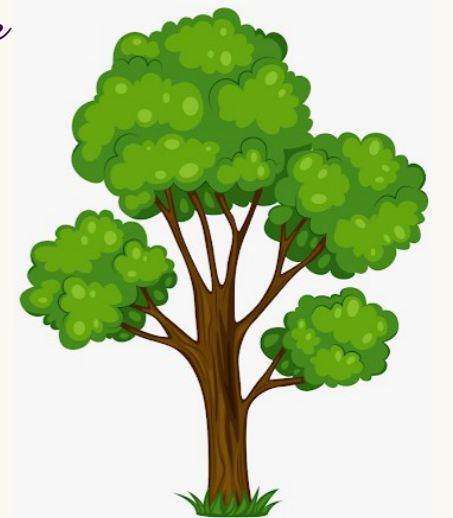
Or...

The ancient oak towered over the little cottage.

The noun oak covers the adjectives tall and majestic. At least for anyone who has seen an oak before. We still need the adjective ancient because it stops us thinking of a little oak sapling and reinforces the tall bit. I also couldn't help changing the word house too*.

Suddenly we can picture the scene a little better, can't we?

Now we sound less 'primary school' and more mature!



*I also sneaked in the word little. I wasn't tempted to use a word like diminutive or petite because it...

a) sounds like I'm trying too hard/showing off

b) jars the reader because the context isn't quite right

c) makes me appear to have swallowed a thesaurus.

Sometimes words like little are good enough!