Decorations  (Use Sparingly! 😊)

1. Question
   Asking a rhetorical question to inspire thought.
   Examples
   o How in the world would he get out of this mess?
   o What is of more value than gold?  (from an essay about friendship)
   o Where lurked the real wolf?  (from The Boy Who Cried Wolf)
   o What will the future hold if Americans forget the lessons of the Founding Fathers?
   o How will the world be altered if young people fail to study history and learn about the mistakes of the past?
   o Who created the heavens and the earth?
   o What is the meaning of life?

2. Quotation or Conversation
   Examples
   o “Why won’t they believe me?” cried Peter desperately.  (from The Boy Who Cried Wolf)
   o “History may not repeat itself, but it sure does rhyme,” noted Mark Twain.
   o In the words of author Jane Williams, "Embrace your own ridiculousness."
   o As Ronald Reagan wisely explained, “All great change in America begins at the dinner table.”
   o Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light!
   o John Mason Brown noted, "The mind is a wonderful thing. It starts to work the minute you are born and never stops until you get up to speak in public."

3. 3 – SSS (Three Short Staccato Sentences!)
   Three short staccato sentences in a row used for emphasis, best used in descending patterns of length.
   Examples
   o (3:3:3) Savage bees attacked. Violently they killed. Nobody was spared.
   o (2:2:2) Bees invade. They marauded. Humans perished.  
     I came. I saw. I conquered.

(Avoid 2:3:4 or 3:4:5. Increasing patterns have less impact)

4. Dramatic Opening or Closing
   A short dramatic sentence (VSS) before the topic sentence, combined with another dramatic VSS after the clincher sentence
   Examples
   o Hungry flames roared. (Opening) .... The farm lay in ashes. (Closing)
   o Killer bees invaded. (Opening) .... The nightmare had begun. (Closing)
   o A baby was born. (Opening) ... Some lives change the world. (Closing)

5. Simile or Metaphor
   Simile: A simile compares one thing to something else using “like” or “as.”
   Simile Examples
   o Her dress was white as a fresh snow.
   o Like a mouse, she squealed with surprise.
   o “Idle as a painted ship upon a painted ocean” –Samuel Coleridge
   o Nigel looked like a Greek god.
   o The case was light as a feather.
**Metaphor:** A metaphor makes an implied comparison by saying one thing IS another without using “like” or “as.” A metaphor says something IS something else.

*Metaphor Examples*
- The world is his stage.
- Debt is a bottomless sea.
- Love is a lemon; it is either bitter or sweet.
- The wicked man had a heart of stone.
- Nigel is a Greek god.
- I am the vine; you are the branches.
- These students are Einsteins in the making.

### 6. Alliteration

The repetition of an initial consonant sound

*Examples*
- The young woman took a stroll along the beach, *sincerely seeking satisfying solitude*.
- Bartholomew’s beagle barked and bayed, becoming bothersome for Billy.
- Conrad’s cat clawed her couch, creating chaos.
- Seymour’s seven sisters slept soundly in sand.
- Toby took tons of tools to make toys for tots.
- Marvin’s microphone made much music.
- Nigel’s nephew needed new notebooks now not never.

*Literary Examples*
- ...And the silken sad uncertain rustling of each purple curtain  *(from The Raven by Edgar Allan Poe)*
- ...Deep into that darkness peering, long I stood there wondering, fearing, Doubting, dreaming dreams no mortal ever dared to dream before  *(from The Raven by Edgar Allan Poe)*
- Hot-hearted Beowulf was bent upon battle  *(from Beowulf)*
- Behemoth, biggest born of earth, upheaved His vastness  *(from Paradise Lost by John Milton)*
- Fly o’er waste fens and windy fields  *(from Sir Galahad by Alfred Tennyson)*
- Mary sat musing on the lamp-flame at the table  *(from The Death of the Hired Man by Robert Frost)*
- For the sky and the sea, and the sea and the sky  *(from the Rime of the Ancient Mariner by Samuel Taylor Coleridge)*

*Indicator:* Write “DEC” for “decoration in the white space of your right margin!” 😊