

Suspense ROADMAP

Phase 1 builds on the following EYFS aspects:

Letter formation, sentence punctuation, finger spaces, story phrases, character descriptions, journey stories

Phase 1

Building on EYFS:

Put the character in a scary setting.

Describe what the character can see.

Say how the characters feel.

Phase 2

Building on Phase 1:

Place the character in a scary or derelict setting.

Show that the setting is dark or cold.

Have the character hear or see something.

Create atmosphere by describing what characters can see, hear, smell and feel.

Use dramatic sentence starts.

Say how a character feels and reacts.

Include short punchy sentences for dramatic effect.

Describe the setting to show how it makes the characters feel uncomfortable.

Use a change in light or temperature to add atmosphere and isolate the characters.

Keep the threat hidden and mysterious.

Use scary sound effects and include short glimpses of the threat to build tension.

Use a range of dramatic sentence starts to add pace and drama.

Show that a character is scared through their actions.

Phase 3

Building on Phase 2:

Describe how a character moves through/into a setting, which is scary, abandoned or derelict.

Give aspects of the setting human qualities and have it watch or challenge the character.

Suggest something is about to happen.

Reveal the character's emotions through their reactions.

Slow the action to increase the tension.

Slowly reveal the threat in stages and the characters thoughts towards it; moving on to hint at the threat returning to add tension to the conclusion.

Create a false sense of security for the reader by introducing a setting which sees an atmosphere change.

Have the setting mirror or contrast with the character's emotions.

Manipulate sentence length to build up tension effectively.