

## Literacy Coaching. 7 Steps to Writing

### Step 6.
**Ban the Boring Bits**

<table>
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<th>Why do kids always fill their stories with the boring details of their day? How many of these have you seen?</th>
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| • **Food Fetishes.**  
We were at Disneyworld and we got to eat hamburgers with chips and a big thick milkshake. I had two whole bottles of Coke and my sister had… |
| • **Bedroom boredom.**  
I woke up that morning and leapt out of bed and put on my best jeans and a jumper and then cleaned my teeth and put on my shoes… |
| • **Trapped in travel.**  
In the bus on the way to the swimming sports we waved at the cars and Mark made us sing really boring songs and then we put our streamers through the windows and… It's called 'warm-up' writing because people start with the safe and familiar. Professional authors know this – some authors even cut out the first few chapters when editing, so their book jumps straight into the action. |

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<th>TOP TIP.</th>
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<td>We often learn more about what kids ate going to the zoo then what happened when the lion escaped. So simply tell children to cut out the boring bits: no beds, no bus trips, no boring lists of friends or food. (See also Step 1: Sizzling Starts)</td>
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<th>ACTION ACTIVITY.</th>
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<td>Watch movies and see how little of the 'boring bits' they use. They rarely show people using the bathroom, brushing their teeth or blow drying their hair. Even stranger, notice how people never seem to travel, they just 'arrive'.</td>
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Before,

Audrey woke up feeling taller than she was yesterday. She climbed out of bed and walked to the bathroom to check herself in the mirror. Her hair was still brown and her eyes were still blue and she still had freckles. She brushed her teeth and washed her face before heading down the stairs to have breakfast. When she arrived in the kitchen she saw dad and told him she was taller today than yesterday. He said he thought she looked bigger. Audrey told dad that as she was bigger now she would like a house of her own. While he thought about this she ate her toast and vegemite and drank some milk. Dad finally said that he would help her find a new house. He followed her outside and they started to look for somewhere new.

How to Ban The Boring. DART

D– delete (take out words, phrases or sentences)
A – add (add in adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, interesting vocabulary and dialogue)
R – rearrange (change the order of the words or sentences)
T – trade (swap a word eg. ambled for walked)

After.

Audrey jumped out of bed feeling like a giant. She skipped to the bathroom to check herself in the enormous mirror. She flew out of the bathroom and slid down the railing into the yellow kitchen.

“Dad! Dad! I’m taller than I was yesterday! I’m nearly bigger than the mirror.”

“Well then, you’re going to need a bigger house.” replied Dad.

“Yes! Yes!” Audrey cried out with excitement.

While she thought about this she gobbled her toast with vegemite and cheese and slurped her sweet milk. Dad told her he would help her find a new home. He followed her outside and like a treasure hunt, they searched for somewhere new.

By Macey O and Ruben M 6B
Audrey jumped up out of bed feeling taller than she was yesterday. She wandered into the kitchen and told Dad that she was taller today than yesterday. She also explained that now she was bigger she would like a house of her own. While he thought about this carefully she scoffed down her toast and vegemite and excitedly drank some milk. Dad eventually said that he would help her find a new house. They wandered outside and started to look for somewhere new.

By Dylan B and Andon G 5/6A

Audrey woke up feeling taller than she was yesterday. She wandered down the large wooden stairs to the table to have breakfast. When she arrived in the kitchen she saw dad and announced that she was taller today than yesterday. He thought she looked bigger than yesterday. Audrey told dad that as she was bigger now she would like a house of her own. While he quietly thought about this she ate her breakfast and gobbled down some milk. Dad finally came to the conclusion he would help her find a new house. He followed her outside and they started to look for a place of her interest.

Connor M 5/6A

Audrey woke up feeling epically taller than she was yesterday. She hopped out of bed and skipped to the bathroom to see if anything else had changed. Everything was the same but she was certainly feeling taller. She got ready for the day and headed down the stairs. When she arrived in the kitchen she saw dad and she asked in wonder, “Dad, am I taller than yesterday?” He exclaimed “I definitely think you look taller today than yesterday.” Audrey told dad that as she was bigger she would like a house of her own. After what felt like days to Audrey, he considered this seriously and finally agreed he would help her find a new house. He followed her outside and they started searching for a place Audrey could call home sweet home.

Cassie M and Edie S 5/6A

Audrey woke up feeling taller than ever. She flew out of bed and skipped to the bathroom mirror and everything looked normal. As she hurtled into the kitchen she yelled “I’m taller than I was yesterday.” Her dad nodded in agreement. Audrey told dad that as she was bigger now she would like a house of her own. While he thought very carefully about this Audrey ate her breakfast. Suddenly dad exclaimed “We can go and find you a new house now.” As Audrey excitedly jumped out the back door, dad followed.

Maya E and Grace S 5/6A