HOW TO CREATE SUSPENSE

USE DIFFERENT SENSES

The churchyard was **eerily quiet**.
Mist **covered the objects** beyond.
Jack **shivered** as the **icy wind** blew.
The **rotten stench** hit them.
He **tasted the sweat** that had trickled into his mouth.

SHORT SENTENCES TO ADD IMPACT

It was eerily quiet.
They stepped forward.
Her heart pounded.
It went dark.
Something moved.

POWERFUL VERBS

The mysterious creature cackled.

He whimpered when he heard the sound.

They were forbidden from entering.

EXPANDED NOUN PHRASES

a monstrous shadow beside the house

the round button next to the door

an abandoned train station in the centre of town

WARNINGS ARE GIVEN

They were told to never go there.
Others had never returned.
"We shouldn't go in there," Jack said.

LONGER SENTENCES TO CREATE TENSION

Deep within the shadows, something shifted, its eyes watching their every move.

Birds suddenly flew up from the trees surrounding them and the metal hinges on the gate they had just come through made the same grinding sound as before.

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

personification

Lightning danced across the sky.

simile

Screams as loud as cymbals could be heard.

metaphor

The moon was a lantern lighting their way.

DIALOGUE

"What was that?" she whispered.

"Over there," he stuttered.

He said, "Don't be a scaredy-cat!"

plazoom