



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Writing With... Suspense!

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The clock is counting down: *ten, nine, eight*—Emma tries desperately to find a way to shoot the ball. She moves left, then right, but the other team’s guard is with her every step. *Five, four, three . . .* Three seconds until they lose the championship unless Emma does something soon. Her heart is pounding. Sweat runs down her forehead into her eyes. Just then, Emma ducks under the defender’s outstretched arms, hurls the ball toward the net and, as the ball leaves her fingertips, “BUZZ!” A half-second later, “SWISH!” Victory!

**This passage is an example of suspenseful writing. Suspense is the tension or excitement you feel when the outcome is uncertain. Can you think of a book or movie that had you on the edge of your seat? Here are some ways to put suspense into your writing:**

- Put your characters on a deadline.
- Introduce conflict.
- Use dramatic irony by having the reader know more than your character.
- Slow down a moment and describe every detail.
- Write in present tense.

**Directions:** Use the following opening sentences to write your own suspenseful paragraphs.

1. The darkness was fast approaching.

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2. As the police sirens grew louder, Shannon realized: They were coming for her.

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3. The floorboards creaked as Andy tiptoed down the dim, musty hallway.

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