Elaborating on Important Parts

Writers elaborate on particular parts of a story to make readers slow down and pay attention to those specific scenes.

First, ask yourself, “What is my story really about?”

This sample story is really about the writer’s relationship with her sister.

**Next, she highlighted the parts where she mentions her sister.**

Then, she slowed down an important part of the story to **SHOW** her relationship with her sister:

*“Luka!” I yelled as he ran into my legs. “Silly dog!” I huffed. He had too much energy for his own good. He looked up cheerfully, tongue hanging recklessly out of the side of his mouth. Then he bounded down the field, all his muscles rippling. “Why do I have to take him for his walks?” I grouched silently, shivering in the cold wind, and thinking of my warm bed.*

*It was then that I heard the sounds. There was a screech, a thud and a whine so full of pain that my heart stopped beating.*

*“What . . . Where . . . Where’s Luka?”* ***I didn’t know my older sister was running through the field behind me until I heard her panic-filled voice.***

*I turned to look at her but found I couldn’t answer, only shake my head. Together we ran until we were beside the furry body that had curled into itself, now heaving gently.*

*“Luka?” I heard my voice break as I knelt beside him. His eyes had never looked like this, glazed with shock, as if he couldn’t see me at all.* ***My sister, too, was talking – softly.\****

*Having my sister there helped ease the pain. My whole life she has been there for me with a hug, or a kind word, when I needed it most.*

**Here are the writer’s revisions:**

*\*My sister, too, was talking – softly. Her face as she bent close to Luka was white. “It’s okay . . . It’s okay . . . It’s going to be okay,” she murmured. Her hand came up to hold my shoulder and I realized it was me, not Luka, that she was trying to comfort.*

**Here is the revised paragraph:**

*“Luka?” I heard my voice break as I knelt beside him. His eyes had never looked like this, glazed with shock, as if he couldn’t see me at all. Her face as she bent close to Luka was white. “It’s okay . . . It’s okay . . . It’s going to be okay,” she murmured. Her hand came up to hold my shoulder and I realized it was me, not Luka, that she was trying to comfort.*

**The most important thing to remember when elaborating is that you pick a specific part to slow down – an important part – on that shows what your story is really about!**

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ September 21, 2016

Strategies for Elaborating on Important Parts

* Slow down the action, telling it bit-by-bit
* Add dialogue
* Give details
* Show small actions
* Add internal thinking

Here is the part of my story I selected where I will make time go slower:

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