Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Adapted for ACHS by J. Davis from Mastering Language Arts Series* by Linda Turrell © 2003

Sentence Style – Writing Vivid Sentences Using Lively Words

You know what a sentence is – now it’s time to work on style. Style in writing is no different from any other sense of style – you just need to know how to create it.

Choose the best word for your sentences. This means choose a vivid or an exact word to express what you want to say. For example, do not say “raining” when you can say “*pouring” –* what makes a better picture in your mind?

It’s really raining outside!.................OR…………It’s really pouring outside!

The same principle applies to verbs and adjectives. Do not say “walk” when you mean “stroll” – don’t say “walk” when you mean “crawl” – choose your words carefully! When you use adjectives or adverbs, choose words that paint a vivid picture. Do not say walk slowly when you mean walked deliberately. Get the picture? Be precise.

**Identifying vivid words**

Can you identify the vivid words in each sentence? Underline them.

1. Cold, soothing fruit drinks were on the table.

2. The puffy, white clouds sailed across the sky.

3. It was crunchy, chewy and good.

4. Sharp, cold spears of ice dripped slowly onto the steps.

5. Tangy, lemon tastes came in every bite.

6. Smooth, silky sips of shake were good.

7. Dusty and dry air flew across the desolate plains.

**Creating vivid sentences**

A key to good sentence writing is to be able to identify vivid, sharp words in sentences that you read and write. Underline the vivid words in the following sentences.

Ex.: The brisk, frigid air whisked through the trees.

**Underline the vivid words.**

1. The soft, gentle rain seeped into the ground.

2. Heavy snows drifted into the doorways.

3. Dusty air swirled the leaves.

4. Icy, icicle spears dripped onto the pavement.

5. Roaring rivers rolled over the banks.

6. Sharp comments fell upon our ears.

7. Soft, cuddly puffs of cotton fell from the box.

**Write three sentences using vivid words.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Choosing strong words is a good skill to know. Find a stronger, more vivid word for each of the boldfaced words in these sentences.**

1. The **person** argues loudly with the sales clerk.

2. The group of people **moved** slowly.

3. The wind **blew** through the trees.

4. The baby **cried loudly**.

5. The door **closed loudly**.

6. The rain **fell softly**.

**Write a more vivid verb in each sentence.**

1. They worked.

2. The birds sang.

3. They walked.

4. The small dog barked.