Using Sentence Length For Effect
Imagine you are on a holiday when you see a huge tsunami heading towards you.

What might you be thinking or feeling?

**Tsunami**

A tsunami is a large wave on the ocean, usually caused by an undersea earthquake, a volcanic eruption, or coastal landslide. A tsunami can travel hundreds of miles over the open sea and cause extensive damage when it encounters land.
In this lesson, you will be learning how to use sentence length in order to emphasise feelings and create mood in a piece of creative writing.

Read the text on the next slide. The narrator is on the beach watching a huge tsunami head towards her.

Identify the short sentences used in the extract and think about their effect on the reader.
The water is only feet away now. I stand frozen on the beach, praying that the ocean will merely tickle my toes with its cooling surf. But it does not. A huge, roaring sea tiger devours me in one ravenous bite, lifts me off my feet and tosses me like a rag doll towards the hotel. I can’t see. I can’t breathe. This is it. I am going to die....
Short Sentences for Effect

The writer uses the short sentence ‘But it does not’ to emphasise the narrator’s horror in response to the sheer power of the water coming towards her. The effect of this is to draw attention to her rising panic about being caught up in the huge wave.

Your turn.
Furthermore, the writer uses other short sentences such as ‘______________’ to ________________________________. The effect of this is ________________.
Plenary

Long sentences can:
• create a slow rhythm;
• include plenty of descriptive detail;
• create a sense of time dragging.

Short sentences can:
• create a choppy, punchy rhythm;
• draw attention to dramatic thoughts or actions;
• create a sense of panic or breathlessness.