



# Choices for Elaborating in Narrative Writing

When the writer wants ... 	Your feedback might include ... 
The main character to come alive to the reader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Making them talk by using dialogue</li> <li>Sharing their inner thinking</li> <li>Describing small gestures or facial expressions</li> <li>Having another character react to the main character</li> <li>Including a memory (i.e., flashback)</li> <li>Making them struggle with a problem; showing that struggle in their thoughts and words</li> </ul>
The setting to be crystal-clear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describing the setting throughout the story, especially when the setting changes</li> <li>Including what the characters hear, smell, and see</li> <li>Having your character react to the setting ("what a lovely day at the beach," she thought)</li> <li>Including the setting in the character's actions ("she pushed her toes into the sand")</li> </ul>
The bigger lesson or theme to emerge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Having the character act out of character and learn something big</li> <li>Having the character say out loud or to themselves what he or she learned</li> <li>Being the omniscient narrator, describing the lessons that were learned</li> <li>Having one character teach another character in their words and actions</li> <li>Using a symbol to reflect the learning, like the clouds parting and sun shining through</li> </ul>