

Learn to Edit!

Five Top Tips to put more **MOJO** in your writing!

The following story is boring – let's **JAZZ** it up!

A taniwha came out of a cave. It was **BIG** and **SCARY**. It ate Hana.

1. Wow words:

Use more interesting words!

A thesaurus is great for this, e.g. what could you say instead of 'scary'? Horrific, petrifying, gruesome?

2. Details: e.g. how exactly did the taniwha look?

Did it have flashing red eyes?  **Scaly**, green skin? What else did it do?

Rear up on his hind legs? Open wide his mouth? Lash his tail?

3. Similes and metaphors:

Compare things by using like or as (a simile), or just say that something is something else (a metaphor): The taniwha was 'as big as a building' (simile);

'Its eyes were dinnerplates' (metaphor).

4. Dialogue:

Add some talking!

"Aaaah!" screamed Hana. "Let me go!"



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5. Language features:

e.g. onomatopoeia (sound words):

THUMP! THUMP! THUMP! and alliteration ('two terrible twitching tongues').

Let's try it again now:

A terrifying taniwha thundered out of the cave. **Thud! Thud!**
Thud! The monster was as big as a bus. Its legs were like tōtara trees, its tail wide as a waka. **Thud! Thud! Thud!** Its eyes were fiery **flames** of greed. It reached out its terrible talons and snatched up the poor, petrified girl.

"Aaaah!" screamed Hana. 'Get away from me!'"

CRUNCH!

Better, right?! Can you pick out one or more examples of each of the following?

Wow words:

Details:

Similes:

Metaphors:

Dialogue:

Onomatopoeia:

Alliteration: