

“Farmed Out” Chapter

(pages 51-53)

Ralph Fletcher’s Word Choice Skills

Skill #1: Packing multiple *strong* verbs in a single sentence

“He’d sit around the house reading thick books and smoking a pipe, calmly ignoring the deafening racket made by all the kids running and yelling around him.”

“When it got dark, we ran through the neighborhood playing Flashlight Tag and Hide-and-Seek until the lawns turned cool and moist and bats began to appear in the sky.”

Skill #2: Thoughtful figurative language that doesn’t sound *forced*

“When Mom got pregnant her belly swelled like bread dough rising.”

“It seemed like I had shed my tight family skin...”

Writing Topic Suggestion:

Write about a time you stayed with relatives or that relatives stayed with you. What memorable activities did you do? Can you explain the visit using lots of thoughtful action verbs that center on your activities? Is there a place in your draft where a natural-sounding simile might be appropriate?