

Improving Language Choice and Sentence Structure: Questions for Writers to Ask

In Ralph Fletcher's new book *Pyrotechnics on the Page: Playful Craft That Sparks Writing* (2010), the author suggests that writers take reflective time to ask the following questions when crafting writing.

- Does this sentence have the sound and rhythm I want?
- Do I want the words in this sentence to have a smooth flow, or do I want it to sound discordant and jarring?
- What effect is created by having a long sentence followed by a shorter one?
- What puns or double meanings could be teased out by altering this common phrase or familiar expression?
- How can I write something new and unexpected?
- When is panache suitable?