

An Artist's Structural Palette: Painting with Basic Brush Strokes

1. **Absolute** (with ed or ing participles added)

Junior stood on top of the bard, arm outstretched, legs apart. --- Betsy Byars

Far into the night she awoke with a start and saw Jutta standing in the tree, rain shrouding her like a second skin. --- Ursula Hegi

2. **Appositive**

There would be a glimpse of green---the landscaped lawn around the Central Plaza; a bush on the riverbank. --- Lois Lowry

3. **Participle** (ing/ed forms)

It was tiring and awkward, standing there trying to hold my weight against the walker and clutching the slippery sides of the small sink, my eyes squinched shut. --- Cynthia Voight

He could feel perspiration trickling down his neck onto his shoulders, then down his arms. He, too, lay on his stomach, hidden by trees and grass and bushes. --- Virginia Hamilton

4. **Adjectives Shifted Out of Order**

At the edge of sand was a line of tangled bushes, some of them bearing flowers of red and blue. And beyond them, the stumps of buildings, looking like candles that had burned down almost to their ends, melted and blackened. --- Ben Bova

5. **Action Verbs**

When the cold comes to New England, it arrives in sheets of sleet and ice. In December, the wind wraps itself around bare trees and twists in between husbands and wives asleep in their beds. It shakes the shingles from the roofs and sifts rough cracks in the plaster. --- Alice Hoffman