

Secrets From Great Writers!

THIS MONTH'S SECRET: USING THE RIGHT DETAILS

The author Johanna Hurwitz writes using simple, spare language. She doesn't overload her stories with tons of flashy adjectives; she includes small details that tell you everything you need to know about a character. This activity will show you how using details can make a story clearer and more enjoyable to read.

Directions: Read the passage below and answer the corresponding questions.

"The family didn't have much money, but they always had enough to eat, even if it never was steak. They all had clothing to wear, even if it came from the Salvation Army store, which sold cheap, second-hand items. And they had an apartment to live in, even if they shared his bedroom with his little sister."

1. What does the author mean when she writes, "they always had enough to eat, even if it never was steak"?

2. What does Johanna mean when she writes, "They all had clothing to wear, even if it came from the Salvation Army store, which sold cheap, second-hand items"? What do you picture after reading this sentence?

3. What do you think Joey's room looks like?

Write Now!

Write a paragraph describing your classroom, using details like Johanna uses in her story "Bronx Treasure."

