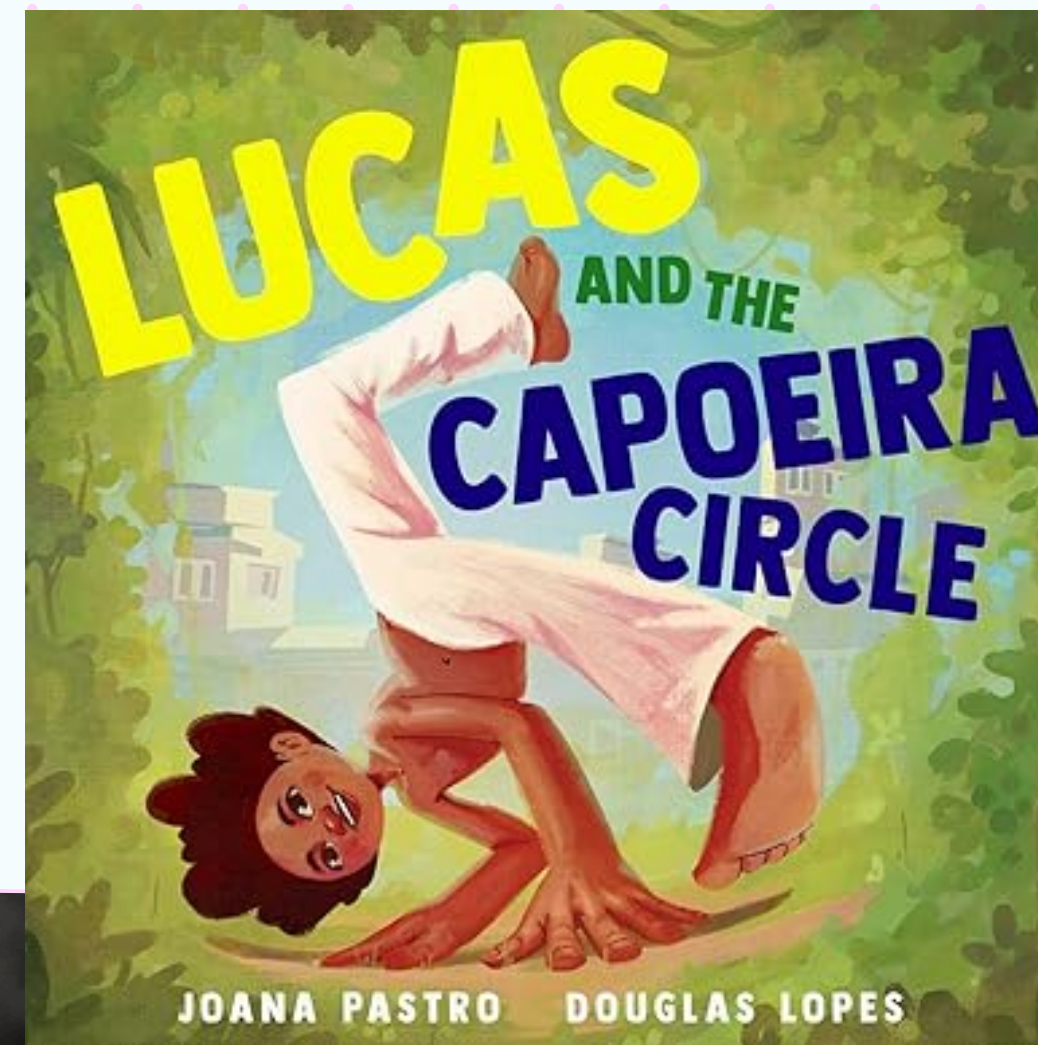




Ana Siqueira

ADDING TENSION





Ana Siqueira

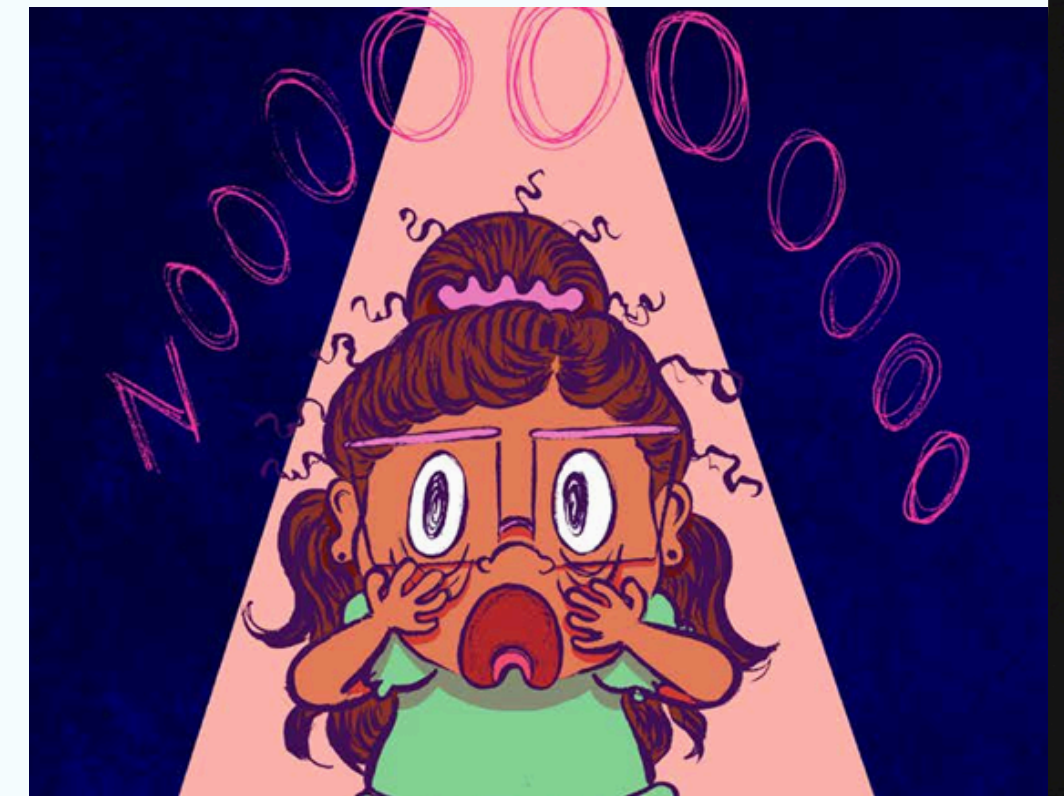
1. What's at stake?

2. The more your character get in trouble (or suffer), the better



4. Writing tips - short sentences, strong verbs.

3. Page turners/
cliff hangers



What's at stake?

GAME
OVER



What's at stake – her babysitter might be a witch



Witches can be mean!



La Mala Suerte (Bad Luck) is Following Miguel
His life is a disaster.



While Papai and Mamãe talk about
their batizados, borboletas flutter
in Lucas's stomach.
He has big flip-flops to fill!

At the park, friends in their abadás gather
around the roda—the capoeira circle.

Lucas's smile wobbles with worry...
What if something goes wrong?
What if everyone laughs at me?

Lucas needs to show his ginga*
or he won't get his new Capoeira belt
and his nickname,

Gluten

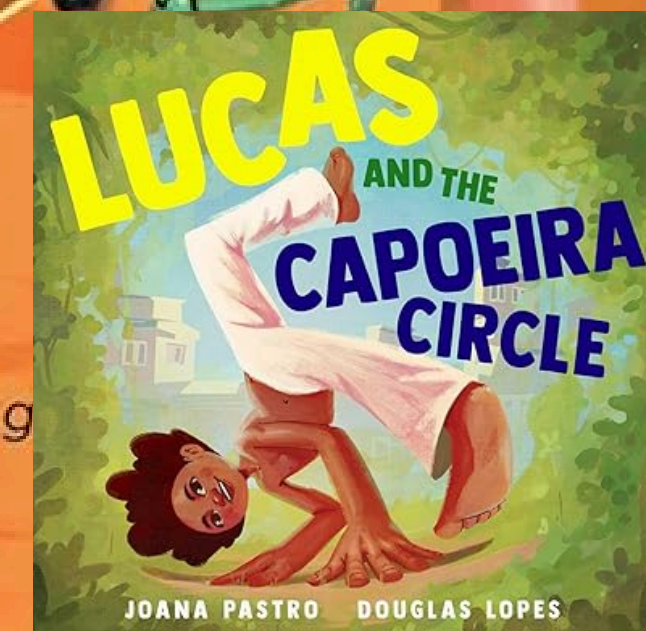
Gluten

What if...

GULP!...

I lose my g

Capoeira – *a martial art/dance from Brazil
ginga – a confident way of moving, swaying.



m and dad did not love vegetables. Not. One. Bit.
were yucky! Disgusting! ¡Que asco!
re not allowed at the Romero's dinner table.

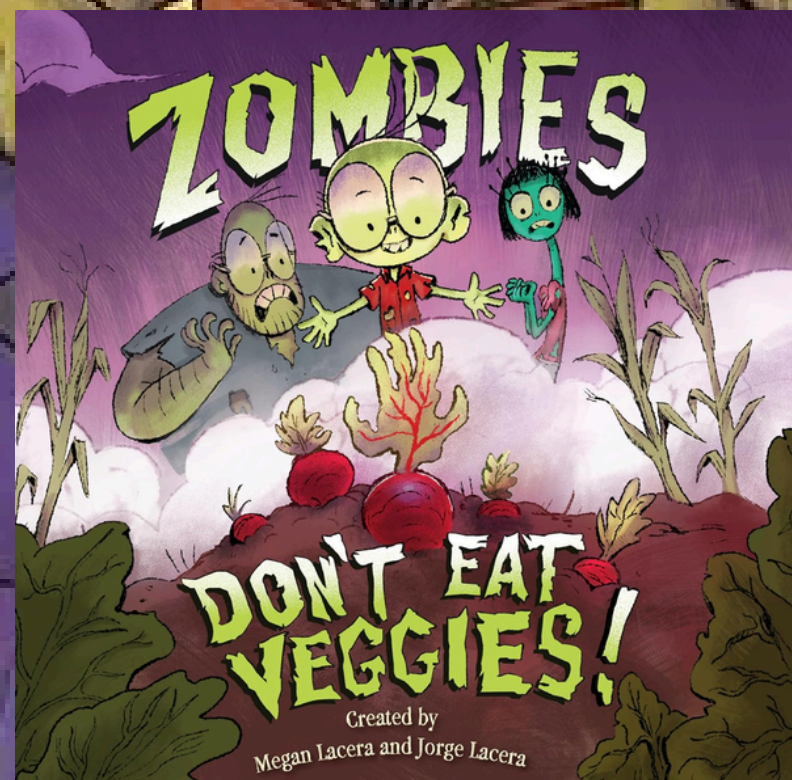
Zombies were supposed to eat zombie cuisine like brain cakes,
brain stew, and brain-and-bean tortillas.
Mo's parents insisted that their *niño* eat only zombie food.

Mo must convince his parents
to allow his favorite food on
their table
or he won't be able to
eat it ever again.
Mo can't imagine a life
with no delicious veggies.

ADY TO CHASE
IE HUMANS IN
MARATHON NEXT
WEEK, MIJO?

FINGER
FOODS,
MI AMOR?

GRACIAS.
I'M NOT
HUNGRY.





Make them fail.
Raise the stakes

**No more
videogames
for a week.**

**GAME
OVER**

For...a sense of tension, your protagonist needs to try and fail several times. Or, if they succeed in reaching their goal at first try, adverse possible consequences need to lurk in the background.

For example, Timmy might arrive at the party, having snuck out undetected, and notice his phone buzzing away with worried and/or angry texts. This small sign tells us he isn't completely off the hook.

Now novel –

<https://www.nownovel.com/blog/create-tension-writing/>





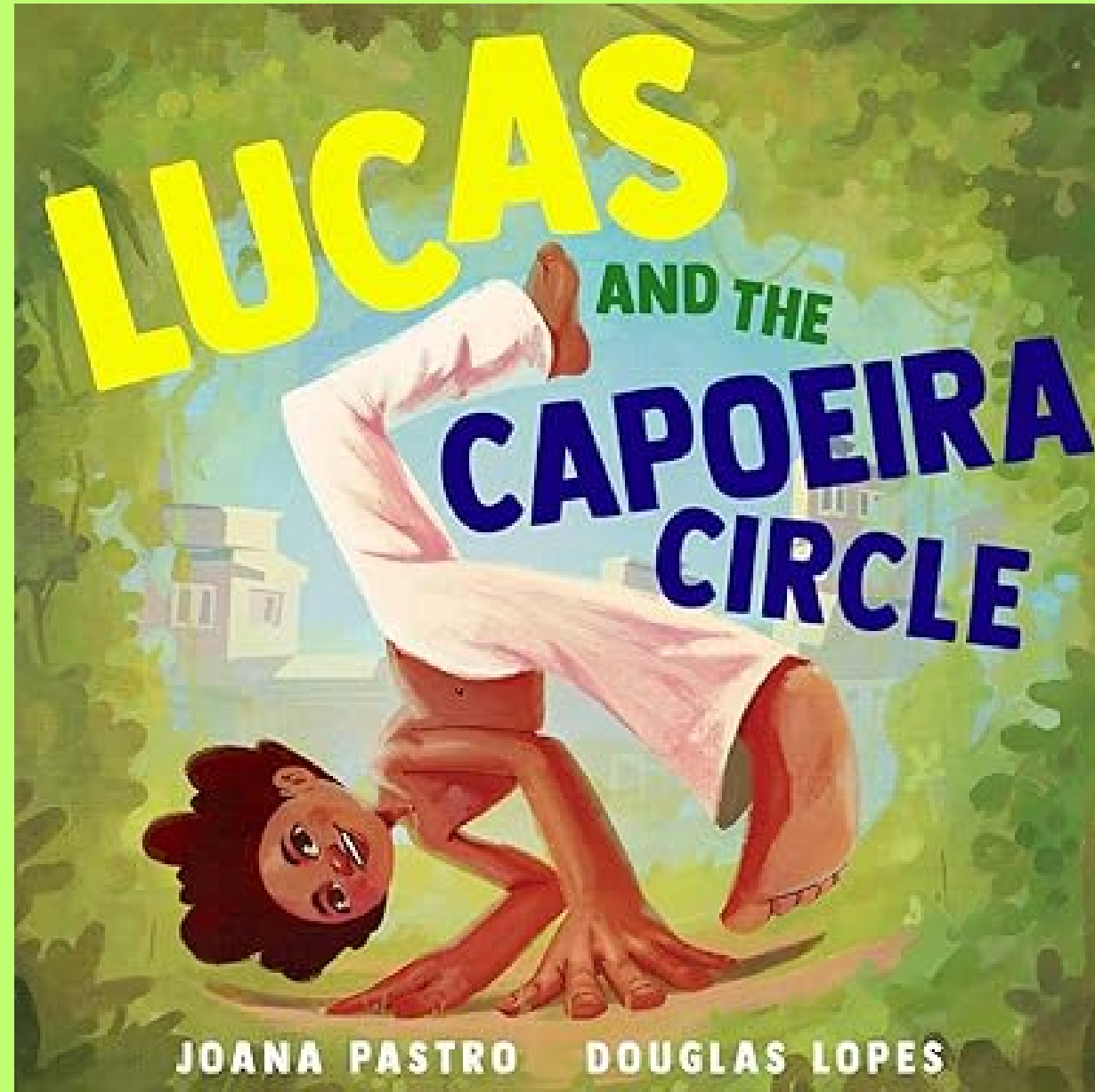
The Bruja grabs her,
throws her in a torre,
drops her in a cauldron
with starving cocodrilos!!!!



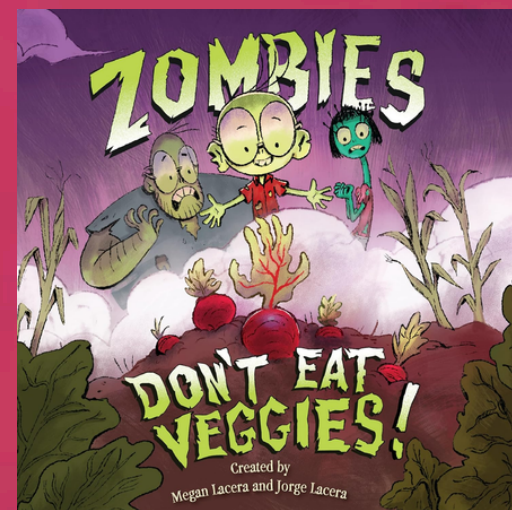
Miguel can't catch a ball.
La Mala Suerte is still following him.
He might need to ask to sit on the bench.



It's time for the Capoeira ceremony
and Lucas can't find his ginga.
He must quit.



did not like the soup.



¡DIOS MIO! THIS SOUP TASTES
LIKE ... LIKE ... VEGETABLES!
YUCK!

Mo fails on his trial to make his parents
eat his Gazpacho
(A Spanish cold tomato soup)
Soup and convince them veggies are
deliciosos.

Mo's heart sank to his toes.
His plan was a bust.

An illustration of two children, a girl and a boy, sitting on the floor and reading a large, open book. The girl, on the left, has dark hair in a ponytail and is wearing a yellow shirt with a pink scarf. She is laughing with her mouth open. The boy, on the right, has brown hair and is wearing a blue shirt with a yellow scarf. He is looking at the book with a surprised expression. The book has a red cover and is open to two pages. The background is a solid blue color with a small orange zigzag line in the top left corner.

**Page
turners**

TV shows often end with a cliffhanger, to reel you in and keep you coming back for more.

Will the bad guy catch the good guy? Will the princess fall in love with the prince? Will the rabbit gobble up the monster?

So you must hook your readers with a question. Ending a spread with but, when, then, or even ellipsis will pique the readers' curiosity.

They won't be able to stand it. They must..

TURN THE PAGE!!! Read the next chapter!

Ana Siqueira – Blogfish Blog



MO imagined breakfasts, lunches, dinners, snacks
All VEGETABLES!

Raw, cooked, steamed, and fried.


Forever and ever.

He saw all his dreams coming true.

Until . . .

Use ellipsis
But, then, until...






Finish the
spread with
a question

What if ...

Gulp...

I lose my ginga too?



**Make us wonder – what is
going to happen next?
Will the Bruja be stuck
in the slippery slide forever?**

Will La Mala Suerte
follow Miguel again?



**Sentence
Structure
to Add
Tension**



Pacing. How fast or slow a story moves can seriously impact the tension. Faster pacing can heighten tension, making things feel urgent and create forward momentum, while slower pacing can increase suspense, letting readers stew in their anticipation.

Dabble Craft Your Story

<https://www.dabblewriter.com/articles/how-to-write-tension#:~:text=Pacing,readers%20stew%20in%20their%20anticipation.>



Short Sentences Show, Don't Tell

Your legs will tremble.
Your hands will shake.
You'll flee to the magic garden!

She'll catch you by
your pants . . .

BUT,
CARAMBA!



You'll slither
down the slimy
slide.

Use Your Senses to add drama/suspense
sight, smell, touch, taste, hearing

Use Panic Conjunction

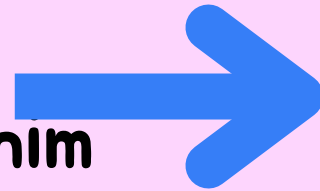
abruptly
all at once
all of a sudden
a moment later
just then
quickly
unexpectedly
without warning

But then...

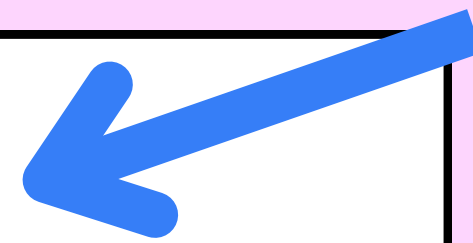


Adding Tension – Line Level

'Fear strangled him
and left him gasping for air.'

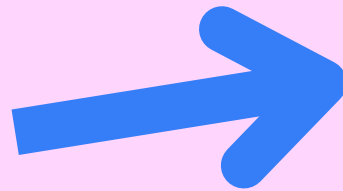


1. Show, don't tell!



Millions of tiny goose bumps
jumped out from Daisy's
arm, like oil from a sizzling
frying pan.'

Without a warning...



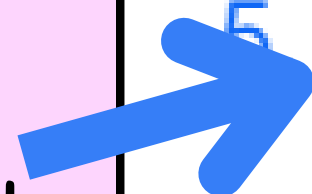
2. Personify abstract nouns

3. Use your senses



'Josef could feel the icy breath on
the back of his neck. It was eerily
quiet.
No sound. No birds singing. No trees
rustling. Tap.'

'She froze.'
'She panicked.'
'She gasped.'



4. Use panic conjunctions

5. Use short sentences

6. Use pathetic fallacy



'Ominous, dark clouds rolled in.
Thunder rumbled in the distance.'

Atom Learning

<https://atomlearning.com/blog/6-ways-to-build-suspense-and-tension-in-writing>



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