

Historical fiction toolkit

FEATURE	EXAMPLE
Capital letters and full stops.	Every day, he called on Livia.
Historical details	He felt the ground shiver and shake. The wind roared in the fading light.
Focus on one character's experience of the time.	golden wings, as bright as the sun, shimmered in the morning light.
Powerful verbs with adverbs.	Every day he sat, watched the boats, and wondered where they were going.
Nouns stretched with adjectives, <u>before</u> and <u>after</u> .	T he dog jumped. H is name was John.
Set the scene: sight, smell, sound, touch, taste.	"Follow me!" cried Livia, running to the steps.
Show not tell feelings.	Gazed disbelievingly
BAD conjunctions to create complex sentences.	H e knew there would never again be a day like this in his whole life .
Power of three.	His hands shook and his eyes grew wide.
Time-skip.	A fter what seemed to be an eternity ...
Speech marks for all speech and a new line for each new speaker.	... putting on his tunic and sandals the forum was crowded with stalls...
Commas after fronted adverbials.	b ecause, a lthough, d espite

Answers

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FEATURE	EXAMPLE
Capital letters and full stops.	The dog jumped. His name was Jon.
Historical details	... putting on his tunic and sandals... ... the forum was crowded with stalls...
Focus on one character's experience of the time.	He knew there would never again be a day like this.
Powerful verbs with adverbs.	Gazed <i>disbelievingly</i>
Nouns stretched with adjectives, <u>before</u> and <u>after</u> .	<i>golden wings, as bright as the sun,</i> shimmered in the morning light.
Set the scene: sight, smell, sound, touch, taste.	He <i>felt</i> the ground shiver and shake. The wind <i>roared</i> in the fading light.
Show not tell feelings.	His hands shook and his eyes grew wide.
BAD conjunctions to create complex sentences.	<i>because, although, despite</i>
Power of three.	Every day he sat, watched the boats, and wondered where they were going.
Time-skip.	After what seemed to be an eternity...
Speech marks for all speech and a new line for each new speaker.	"Follow me!" cried Livia, running to the steps.
Commas after fronted adverbials.	Every day, he called on Livia.