

Analysing Sentence Structure

9th Grade

What sentence length and shape do to a reader.

Syntax is a choice. Writers vary sentence structure to control pace and emphasis.

Structure	Effect
Short sentence	abrupt, emphatic, urgent
Long sentence	flowing, reflective, overwhelming
Fragment	shock, emphasis, informality
List (asyndeton)	speed, accumulation
Repeated 'and' (polysyndeton)	slowness, weight
Sentence starting with the key word	emphasis on that word

A short sentence after several long ones lands hard. That contrast is the technique, not the length alone.