

Author's Craft: Items in a Series



Study the following sentence from *Big* by Vashti Harrison:

“She grew and learned and laughed and dreamed and grew and grew and grew.”

What do you notice?

This sentence is an example of an author breaking a conventional rule of English for a good reason.

Harrison added “and” between each item in the list, instead of separating the items with a comma and using “and” only before the final item on the list, like this:

*She **grew**, learned, laughed, dreamed, **grew**, **grew**, and **grew**.*

Even after adding commas to separate the items, this sentence is still unconventional because of the repetition of the word “grew.”

What do you think she was trying to communicate to readers by overusing the words *and* and *grew*?

Does it work?

TRY IT!

Write your own sentence that separates more than two items in a list with the word “and.” Challenge yourself by choosing another word to repeat for emphasis, too.

READ LIKE A WRITER! Can you find another example of an author using “and” to separate more than two items in a list? Why do you think they broke the rule?