

Word Choice: The Perfect Verb

Name: _____ Date: _____

Writers often underestimate the importance of choosing the perfect verb - they think that the most powerful description is in adjectives. Circle the verbs in the sentences below. Then rewrite each sentence with better verbs or verb phrases that bring the sentence to life.

This	could be better written as
say/said	Exclaim, yell, scold, whisper, sang, calmly remarked, announced, revealed, declared, hinted, suggested
go/went	Saunter, skip, sulk, jump, bounce, slither, dance, inch, back out, flee, disappear
eat	Nibble on, mow down, inhale, devour, gobble, attack, feast on

Example:

1. After the dog ate the Thanksgiving turkey, she left the room.

After the dog inhaled the Thanksgiving turkey, she sulked out of the room.

2. The girl went around the track and smiled when she won first place.

3. The crowd cheered when the player made the basket at the buzzer.

4. Delaney said, "Why did you ruin all of my cupcakes?"

5. After winning the lottery, Dave went home and celebrated.

