

Dear Student: When an author is writing a story, and the characters are moving around, the author **gets to decide** how the characters should move that fits in with the story. For example, if a character is in a big hurry to get upstairs, the author will say he “raced up the steps.” By using the word “raced” the author is using one word to let the reader know more than just the character went up the stairs. When the reader of the story reads “raced up the steps,” he knows WOW that character is really excited to get up stairs or really needs to get upstairs fast. Words are very POWERFUL!

## Ways the Characters Moved

Page #	Way of Moving	What it Means	Why Did the Author Use That Word?
4	strutted		To show that
7	glided		To show that
8	wandered		To show that
14	gingerly approached		To show that

Try This:

What word could you use to describe how you think Hannah came down the stairs on page 3? (You can't use “raced”!). You could look in a thesaurus for word choices.

Semantic Gradient Worksheet - Ways of Moving

Answer Key:

Page #	Way of Moving	What it Means	Why Did the Author Use That Word?
4	strutted	Walking proudly	To show that Hannah felt great and cool, probably different than how she usually walked on the bus.
7	glided	Moved smoothly	To show that
8	wandered	Moved slowly like no place to go.	To show that she's taking her time. Not in a hurry at all. She wants attention.
14	gingerly approached	Moved slowly and carefully	To show that Hannah was still a little unsure of what the cool kids would think of her. She was still wondering if they would accept her?

Try This: Discuss the students' answers and the connotation of each word choice. Emphasize how they should use precise words in their own writing to make it more interesting and to let the reader know more about the characters.

What word could you use to describe how you think Hannah came down the stairs on page 3? (You can't use "raced"! ). You could look in a thesaurus for word choices.