

Suspense Narrative Writing Exercise Sentence Prompts

Begin with the following sentence: He thought he heard something.

1. What did it sound like?
2. What was your character thinking?
3. What did your character smell that was out of the ordinary?
4. What memory did this scent bring up in your character's mind?
5. Now, connect this memory to the present moment somehow for your character.
6. Have your character notice something different or not quite right. Maybe he/she sees something strange or notices something he/she didn't notice before.
7. Have a question go through your character's mind.
8. What does your character want to do right now?
9. Have your character take some sort of action.
10. Put an obstacle in the way, something that keeps the character from doing what he/she wanted to do.
11. Have your character either return to the memory he/she had for courage or think of something else that gives him/her courage.
12. Have your character move closer to the sound or smell.
13. Let your character discover what it really was. Maybe it was nothing, or maybe it was something!