

I can make my writing flow better by changing repetitive words.



The River Which was Made from Tears

Once there lived a great hunter who found a giant brolga with a broken wing. At first the hunter felt frightened and tried to run away, but then he felt sorry for the brolga so he went up to the brolga and asked kindly how the wing was broken. The brolga told the hunter his story and as he did so great tears fell from the brolga's large sad eyes. The tears fell into the tracks he had made while he crawled along in pain, and each tear was as big as the water of a billabong. They turned into fresh cool water and formed a river, flowing very fast along the brolga's tracks. After he had told his story, the poor brolga died of sorrow and woe and the hunter rose into the sky and became the Morning Star, where he watches over the poor brolga. The river, which was made from the brolga's tears, is called the Giddy River today and is not far from Yirrkala in the Northern Territory.

Have you noticed which word is repeated during the story? Yes! Brolga. This can happen a lot when we are writing a story, especially when there is one main character or place and we can't help but say it a lot. To avoid over-using a word, we can use a 'cohesive technique' where we replace the word with a pronoun or a synonym. We don't have to replace all of them, just some.



Can you understand why the hunter was scared now?

Pronouns

he
she
it

Synonym (another word for the brolga)

bird
long-legged being
creature
feathered animal
thing
winged

Now re-write some or all of the story but replace some of the brolga's using the words above or words you have found yourself (you might want to use the pictures to give you some ideas or use a thesaurus).

e.g

Once there lived a great hunter who found a giant brolga with a broken wing. At first the hunter felt frightened and tried to run away, but then he felt sorry for the creature so he went up to the feathered being and asked kindly how the wing was broken.