

## Masterpiece Sentences Step 4

So our composition is coming along, and our predicate is looking nice and detailed. But we're still stuck with a somewhat boring subject-- the birds. I think we can do better. So with step 4 it's time to paint our subject. And that means answering these questions-- which birds? What kind? And how many?

So to do this, we're going to use our imagination a little bit. First, for which birds, well, clearly it's these birds here. We don't know a whole lot about them. But this is where we can kind of make a story to make our sentence a lot more interesting.

So back here we see some clouds. So it's not too hard to imagine that these birds recently flew out of those clouds. Maybe they came out of those clouds. Now we don't know this for sure. It's a picture. They might have flown out of a landfill a second ago. But we're going to pretend, for the sake of the masterpiece sentence, that they flew out of the clouds. Or another word for "flew out of" is "emerged." So which birds? The birds that emerged from the clouds.

And our next question, what kind of birds? Well it's hard to see what kind they are. They're in front of the sun, and they're in the shadows. So we don't know what color they are or anything. But thankfully English has a word for everything. And if you can only see the outline of something, the word for that is silhouetted. Very nice word. I think we brought it from the French. So what kind of birds? We're going to call these "silhouetted birds."

And finally, how many? Well that's an easy question. There are two. So which birds? The ones that emerged from the clouds. What kind of birds are they? They're silhouetted. And how many of them are there? There are two. And we put it all together, and we get our new sentence, "At sunset, with wings outstretched, two silhouetted birds emerge from the clouds and fly over the waves."

Now we're getting a lot closer to putting this picture in the mind of our reader. Let's move on to step 5.

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