



# Building Mystery, Tension and Suspense Word Mat

## Sentence Openers

All of a sudden,  
Behind them,  
Cautiously,  
From out of nowhere,  
Hesitating,  
In silence,  
Mysteriously,  
Out of the shadows,  
Suddenly,  
Suspiciously,  
Unexpectedly,  
Without hesitation,  
Without warning,

## Sensations

eyes widened  
feeling of unease  
growing/mounting panic  
fidgeting nervously  
a nameless fear overwhelmed him  
her heart was in her mouth  
imagination raced wildly  
knees wobbled  
let out a breath  
lip trembled  
mouth fell open  
palms began to sweat  
stomach churned

## What Can Be Seen and Heard

a door slowly creaked open...  
a loud thump...  
a pale light flickered...  
as silent as the grave...  
bathed in the orange glow of the streetlights...  
candlelight flickering in the breeze...  
fluttered softly...  
silhouetted in the moonlight...  
slow, steady footsteps edging closer...  
swirling mist...  
the room was eerily silent...  
the rumble of an engine...  
the yowling of a cat...

## Useful Verbs

creep  
dart  
echo  
grip  
hiss  
jump  
quiver  
rustle  
shake  
shudder  
tiptoe  
warn  
whisper

