

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

