**3.3**

**Sentence variety in the extract from *Millions***

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| **Simple sentence** One main clause | **Compound sentence** Main clauses joined by **and/but/or** | **Complex sentence** Main clause and *subordinate clause* |
| There was someone at the front door. | I raced back up the ladder **and** hauled it after me. | I was just pushing the lower half of the ladder back up *when I heard it.* |
| I held my breath. |  | I slid my hand into my pocket *to make sure the key was still there.* |
| It was OK. |  | I could hear it *turning in the lock now*. |
| They couldn’t get in. |  | *When I reached down to pull the hatch back up*, I could hear someone coming up the stairs. |
| It wasn’t. | I quickly pulled the hatch back into place **and** scrabbled over to the water tank, *holding my breath*. |
| I’d left it in the front door. |

* Why do you think the writer has used so many simple sentences that are also short sentences? What effect does the writer want to achieve?
* Does the use of **and** in the compound sentence and the compound-complex sentence speed up or slow down the action?
* Can you see how the writer uses complex sentences to describe events in more detail and to show that several things are happening at once? Which subordinate clause do you think creates the most tension?