

Detail

Consider:

An old man, Don Tomasito, the baker, played the tuba. When he blew into the huge mouthpiece, his face would turn purple and his thousand wrinkles would disappear as his skin filled out.

— Alberto Alvaro Rios, “The Iguana Killer”

Discuss:

1. The first sentence is a general statement. How does the second sentence enrich and intensify the first?

2. Contrast the second sentence with the following:

When he blew the tuba, his face turned purple and his cheeks puffed out.

Which sentence more effectively expresses an attitude toward Tomasito? What is that attitude and how is it communicated?

Apply:

Describe someone jumping over a puddle. Your first sentence should be general, stating the action simply. Your second sentence should clarify and intensify the action through detail. Share your sentence with a partner.