Read the following excerpt from JK Rowling’s *Harry Potter*. You may recognize this as Professor Severus Snape’s lecture at the beginning of Potion Making class at Hogwarts.

“You are here to learn the subtle science and exact art of potion-making,” he began. He spoke in barely more than a whisper, but they caught every word – like Professor McGonagall, Snape had the gift of keeping a class silent without effort. ‘As there is little foolish wand-waving here, many of you will hardly believe this is magic. I don’t expect you will really understand the beauty of the softly simmering cauldron with its shimmering fumes, the delicate power of liquids that creep through human veins, bewitching the mind, ensnaring the senses ... I can teach you how to bottle fame, brew glory, even stopper death – if you aren’t as big a bunch of dunderheads as I usually have to teach.’...”

Take a few minutes to jot down in your notebook:

1. What do you notice about Rowling’s style of writing? Are the sentences long or short? What does she describe? Why do you think she is describing those things?

2. What do you like about the writing that you might want to mimic in your own writing?