**USING POETIC SOUND DEVICES IN YOUR FICTION**

When I wanted to create a peaceful, loving opening in my short story “Menos Coca, Más Cacao” (“Less Cocaine, More Cocoa”), in my book of short stories, ***How to Make a Killing Jar,*** I turned to sound devices that I knew from writing poetry. First, take a look at the opening paragraph. As you read it, listen for soft sounds that repeat close to each other and parts of sentences that seem to flow:

*The land is my love—a land of happiness and hopelessness, of beauty and brutality. And Chocó, Colombia is my home. It speaks to me in the evening, warm breezes breathing on my neck, soft wisps of wind winding their way around me in a late-night caress.*

I purposely wrote a paragraph containing many words containing the letters l, m, n, r, and s, for example. I have words close together beginning with the same beginning sound. I have vowel sounds like EE being repeated…can you hear them? To find out about these techniques, flip the page over…

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**A FEW OF THE SOUND DEVICES I MADE USE OF:**

**ALLITERATION—**repeated beginning sounds of words close together, like Breezes Breathing or Wind Winding… but did you know there are three kinds of alliteration (and I’ve used all three in my paragraph)? Shoot me an email at [writeracebaker@gmail.com](mailto:writeracebaker@gmail.com) or [acebaker@fighttowrite.com](mailto:acebaker@fighttowrite.com) and I’ll be happy to explain more.

**ASSONANCE—**repeated vowel sounds. Those EEE sounds you hear in the words “beauty,” “brutality,” “speaks,” “me,” “evening,” “breezes,” and “breathing” were not accidental.

**EUPHONY—**involves repeating “soft sounds” (non-aspirated sounds) close together, sounds involving f, l, m, n, r, s, sh, v, and z. These tend to create a more peaceful feeling. If you look at the phrase I just wrote, “peaceful feeling,” the “c” makes a soft “s” sound, and is followed by “f,” “l,” “f,” “l,” and “n” sounds—six soft sounds in only two words. Definitely euphony. And it is indeed peaceful!

Have fun experimenting with work of your own, and if you don’t have a copy of ***How to Make a Killing Jar*** yet, get one by clicking the QR code below. Remember there are 12 more stories in that collection, and I have written a **100+-page workbook** explaining ideas and techniques I used to craft them. Send me a selfie of you holding my book near your face and I’ll send that workbook to you for… **FREE!**

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