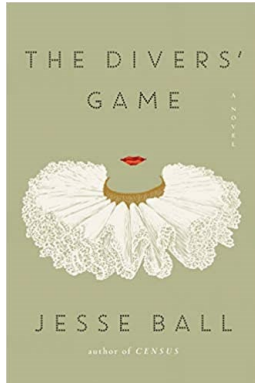


Sula, by Toni Morrison

Nouns: 59
Verbals: 25

Note: Variety in sentence length and type in first part, followed by a shift with more verbs and all complex sentences.

	Type	# words	Sentence
1	Complex	28	In that place, where they tore the nightshade and blackberry patches from their roots to make room for the Medallion City Golf Course, there was once a neighborhood.
2	Simple	19	It stood in the hills above the valley town of Medallion and spread all the way to the river.
3	C/C	17	It is called the suburbs now, but when black people lived there it was called the Bottom.
4	Simple	14	One road, shaded by beeches, oaks, maples and chestnuts, connected it to the valley.
5	Complex	22	The beeches are gone now, and so are the pear trees where children sat and yelled down through the blossoms to passersby.
6	Complex	23	Generous funds have been allotted to level the stripped and faded buildings that clutter the road from Medallion up to the golf course.
7	Complex	24	They are going to raze the Time and a Help Pool Hall, where feet in long tan shoes once pointed down from chair rungs.
8	Complex	32	A steel ball will knock to dust Irene's Palace of Cosmetology, where women used to lean their heads back on sink trays and doze while Irene lathered Nu Nile into their hair.
9	Complex	28	Men in khaki work clothes will pry loose the slats of Reba's Grill, where the owner cooked in her hat because she couldn't remember the ingredients without it.



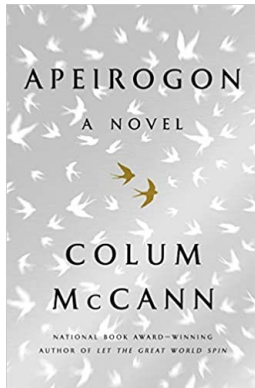
The Divers' Game, by Jesse Ball

Nouns: 42

Verbals: 26

Notables: simplistic verb choices, 6 are "to be" forms, go x2, look x2, see x2, sway x3.

	Type	# words	Sentence
1	Fragment	1	Lethe!
2	Complex	24	If we look for her, if we run up the stairs, cast open her door, and look in her bed, she is not there.
3	Complex	37	If we dash down the steps, turn a corner, pass her befuddled father (who cannot see us), and go to the little table that she loves so well, the one by the window, she is not there!
4	Simple	4	She is not there!
5	Fragment	8	A place and some crumbs, an empty glass.
6	C/C	34	Out we go into the street, and up ahead—can it be?—we see her, beneath linden trees, swaying as a child does, because the morning sways, because when it is the morning, isn't everything swaying?
7	Simple	17	It is only the old who are stiff, who can no longer feel the world's slight breath.



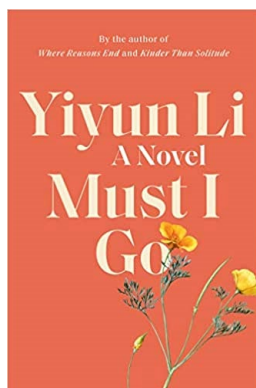
Apeirogon by Colum McCann

Nouns: 34

Verbals: 14

Notables: 8 sentences 6, 8 or 9 words long, two fragments.

	Type	# words	Sentence
1	Simple	9	The hills of Jerusalem are a bath of fog.
2	Simple	16	Rami moves by memory through a straight stretch, and calculates the camber of an upcoming turn.
3	Simple	16	Sixty-seven years old, he bends low on the motorbike, his jacket padded, his helmet clipped tight.
4	Simple	6	It is a Japanese bike, 750cc.
5	Fragment	8	An agile machine for a man his age.
6	Simple	9	Rami pushes the bike hard, even in bad weather.
7	Complex	15	He takes a sharp right at the gardens where the fog lifts to reveal dark.
8	Fragment	2	Corpus separatum.
9	Simple	8	He downshifts and whips past a military tower.
10	Simple	8	The sodium lights appear fuzzy in the morning.
11	Simple	9	A small flock of birds momentarily darkens the orange.



Must I Go by Yiyun Li

Nouns: 46

Verbals: 21

Notables: 6 of the sentences are 10-18 words, only two sentence types.

	Type	# words	Sentence
1	Simple	3	Posterity, take notice!
2	Simple	12	The exhortation, or the plea, appeared twenty-three times in Roland Bouley's diaries.
3	Complex	15	Every time Lilia read the line, she reassured him: Yes, Roland, I'm here, taking notice.
4	Complex	26	If one of her children in their younger years had asked her not to ever die, Lilia would have spoken with equal certainty: I never will.
5	Simple	9	But that was a promise made to be broken.
6	Simple	10	Roland had not asked for the impossible, only the eternal.
7	Simple	8	Who else could be his posterity but her?
8	Simple	17	The single volume of his diaries, over seven hundred pages, was the only book Roland had published.
9	Simple	18	He has culled sixty years of entries, and left instructions to have them printed by a friend's press.
10	Simple	14	He had left everything to Peter and Anne Wilson, his wife Hetty's favorite niece.



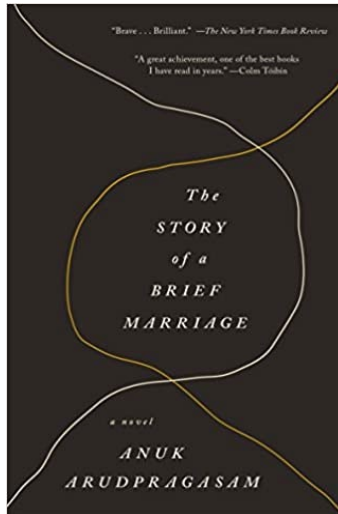
The Nickel Boys by Whitehead, Colson

Nouns: 46

Verbals: 19

Note: Use of was/were and had (weak verbs) and how they put the attention on the nouns. Inverted order: MLK was the only album he owned.

	Type	# words	Sentence
1	Complex	24	Elwood received the best gift of his life on Christmas Day 1962, even if the ideas it put in his head were his undoing.
2	Compound	18	Martin Luther King at Zion Hill was the only album he owned and it never left the turntable.
3	c/c	45	His grandmother Harriet had a few gospel records, which she only played when the world discovered a new mean way to work on her, and Elwood wasn't allowed to listen to the Motown groups or popular songs like that on account of their licentious nature.
4	Compound	29	The rest of his presents that year, were clothes—a new red sweater, socks—and he certainly wore those out, but nothing endured such good and constant use as the record.
5	Complex	28	Every scratch and pop it gathered over the months was a mark of his enlightenment, tracking each time he entered into a new understanding of the reverend's words.
6	Fragment	4	The crackle of truth.



The Story of a Brief Marriage by Anuk Arudpragasam

Nouns: 52

Verbals: 33

Note: Verbs used as modifiers or nouns (doubt), weak verbs (have, be)

	Type	# words	Sentence
1	c/c	40	Most children have two whole legs and two whole arms but this little six-year-old that Dinesh was carrying had already lost one leg, the right one from the lower thigh down, and was now about to lose his right arm.
2	Simple	26	Shrapnel had dissolved his hand and forearm into a soft, formless mass, spilling to the ground from some parts, congealing in others, and charred everywhere else.
3	c/c	36	Three of the fingers had been fully detached, where they were now it was impossible to tell, and the two remaining still, the index finger and thumb, were dangling from the hand by very slender threads.
4	Run on	33	They swayed uncertainly in the air, tapping each other quietly, till arriving at last in the operating area Dinesh knelt to the ground, and laid the boy out carefully on an empty tarpaulin.
5	Simple	7	His chest, it seemed, was hardly moving.
6	Compound		His eyes were closed, and his face was calm, unknowing.
7	c/c	28	That he was not in the best of conditions there could be no doubt, but all that mattered for the time being was that the boy was safe.
8	Compound	29	Soon the doctor would arrive and the operation would be done, and in no time at all the arm would be as nicely healed as the already amputated thigh.