

## **Verbs and the Language of Place**

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With all the "doing" they have to do, verbs work hard. Equally, they can be hard work. For writers of place verbs present particular challenges. Certain verbs have become sutured to certain nouns, leading to cliché (babbling brooks, looming mountains, snaking rivers). Also, when verbs are let loose in the landscape, it can be difficult to prevent them from leaning towards a Romantic style of personification. But if verbs pose risks, they also hold tremendous potential for injecting place writing with freshness and energy.