A literary 3×3 will use the following:

- complete sentences
- effective word order
- strong words, especially verbs and adjectives

An effective literary 3 x 3 may also use the following:

- abstract nouns
- · contractions using "is"

A literary 3 x 3 will not use the following:

- proper nouns/names
- repeated words
- "to be" verbs
- pronouns
- clichés
- a, an, the