

What you need to
know about
descriptive
writing...





What is description?



- ▶ Description is giving details about a person, place, thing, etc. that allows the reader to experience what you have
- ▶ In order to create a good description you must appeal to the five senses and create pictures in the readers mind.





CREATE WORD PICTURES!



- ▶ You already use adjectives in your writing but you want to be even more creative.
- ▶ You want to create pictures in their mind—Word pictures or Imagery.
- ▶ Imagery does not only include what you see it also includes what you hear, smell, taste, touch and even feel.

Adjectives

Adjective is a word used to describe, identify, or quantify a noun or a pronoun. It gives more information about the object signified.

For example: He is a **brave** boy.

Note: **Brave** – is an **adjective** used to describe the type of boy 'he' is.

There are **five** types of Adjectives:



Your reader must be able to close their eyes
listen to your words and create a mental
image of what you are describing.



Imagination makes It happen but your words can help



Some descriptive details to consider when describing an object

Examine:

▶ Colours

▶ Shapes

▶ Sizes

▶ Texture (how it feels)

Some descriptive details to consider when describing a person

Examine:

- ▶ Physical Appearance
- ▶ Facial Expressions
- ▶ Attire
- ▶ Gestures (body movements)



What you should consider when describing a place

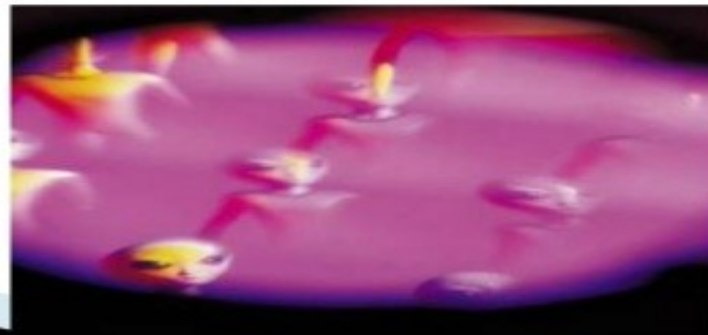
Examine the location. Is it a

Man-made World—
buildings, objects, vehicles



Natural World— trees
, animals, mountains, beaches, w

Even an imaginary world





Show not Tell

- ▶ One the most important things to remember when you are creating a description is to show not tell.
- ▶ What does this mean?

The background is a deep, dark purple with a subtle, shimmering texture. Scattered throughout are several glowing, ethereal flowers and leaves. The flowers have a soft, white-to-pinkish glow, while the leaves are a vibrant, lime green. The overall effect is magical and serene.

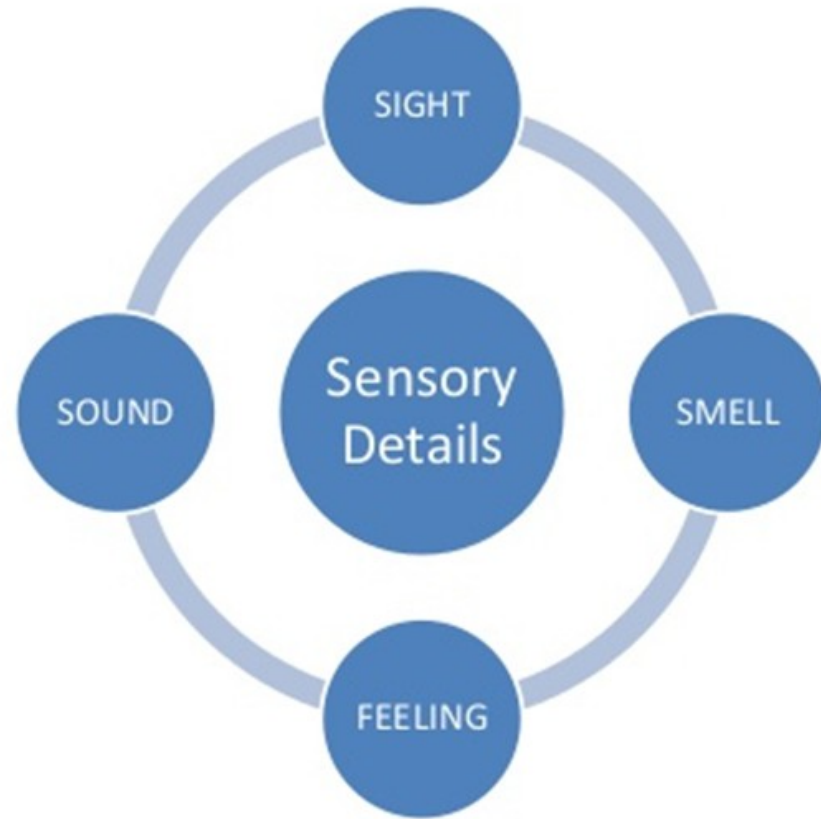
Lets try a little Exercise





Sensory Details

Use your senses
to help you
write
description.





Dominant Impression

- You are describing one thing.
- That one thing is your main point.
- This becomes your topic (or thesis) statement.

You might describe

A room

A place

A person

Or some other thing....

The island was a disaster after the hurricane.

The dominant impression is that it was a DISASTER.



Supporting Details

- Use your senses.
- Add specific details to support your topic (thesis) statement.

What do you...

See?

Hear?

Smell?

Feel?

Taste?

The island was a disaster after the hurricane.

Supporting Details

The island was a disaster after the hurricane.

See?
Hear?
Smell?
Feel?
Taste?

Smell of dead fish

Broken trees

Sound of silence

Feel of hot sun and
humidity in the air

Taste of warm water
because there is no
refrigeration

Spatial Order

The island was a disaster after the hurricane.

Descriptive writing organizes the details by moving through space.

Imagine you just stepped off a plane onto the disaster site of the island.

What is the first thing you would notice?

Would you smell the dead fish first?

Or maybe the heat and humidity would hit you first.

Or maybe you are stunned by how quiet it is with no cars moving and the power out.

Show not tell: Scenario 1

If you are writing about someone who is excited about going to a party how would you describe this?

A.

- ▶ She was excited when her parents gave her permission to go to the party.

B.

- ▶ Her eyes widened with surprise and her lips parted as she screamed with delight when her parents said “Yes”



Show not tell: Scenario 2



You are in the midst of a
thunderstorm. How would you describe
this?



A.

- ▶ **The rain was falling heavily and everyone was afraid**

B.

- ▶ **The raindrops attacked the galvanized roof and the windows rattled. We huddled under the bed and held each other tightly**

Which one is clearer ?

- ▶ The descriptions in the first example (labeled A) tells you what is happening but it does not create pictures in your mind
- ▶ The descriptions in the second example (labeled B) create images in the readers mind and allow them to experience it fully

The background features a dark, almost black, field with numerous small, bright white speckles, resembling a starry night sky or a microscopic view. Scattered throughout are several large, vibrant purple flowers with delicate, layered petals. Interspersed among the flowers are a few bright green leaves, some showing clear veins. The overall composition is artistic and visually rich.

Lets try a few sentences to see
how an adjective can make it
clearer and descriptive.

The background of the image is a dark, almost black, space filled with several large, vibrant purple flowers. The petals are layered and have a soft, glowing appearance. Interspersed among the flowers are several bright green leaves, some of which are partially visible. The overall effect is a rich, textured, and somewhat ethereal floral composition.

What do you think is
happening in the next
picture?



- Form all your ideas into complete sentences.
- Add transitions.
- Check to be sure you described everything.
- Proofread!

