



## Reading On The Move

### Painting Pictures with Words

**Imagery** is a literary device that creates a mental picture for the reader using the five senses. The five senses are sight, sound, touch, taste, and smell. These senses are used to paint a picture for the reader.

**Example: Sight:** The bright green sprouts pierced through the soil.

**Sound:** The jet roared overhead.

**Touch:** The warmth of the sun wrapped around her as if it were giving her a hug.

**Taste:** The sauce was sweet with coconut and spicy with chilies.

**Smell:** The air smelled of fresh cut grass.

When writing descriptively, **word choice** is important. Word choice, or the words the author uses, can help the reader to understand the message the author is giving. Good word choice is using descriptive vocabulary that can help the reader to visualize, or see, what the author is writing about.

**Example:** Compare these two sentences:

1. *The boy pulled the wagon up the hill.*
2. *The young boy struggled to pull the rickety wagon up the steep hill.*

Do you picture the same boy and the same wagon for each of these sentences?

1. What descriptive words were used in the second sentence that changed how you pictured the scene? \_\_\_\_\_

Below is an example of a poem that uses *imagery*. Notice how the author paints a picture with words.

**Autumn**

The crisp chill in the air shows my breath.  
With winter close on their tail feathers,  
The geese point due south, honking goodbye.  
Smoke from chimneys tickles my nose and my memories.  
The bright red, orange, and yellow leaves  
Cling to the limbs until they are crunchy and brown...  
And then they FALL.

Now, read the poem again out loud and answer the following questions.

2. What does the author see?

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3. What does the author hear?

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4. What does the author feel and smell?

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How does the author describe:

5. The air: \_\_\_\_\_

6. The geese: \_\_\_\_\_

7. The leaves: \_\_\_\_\_

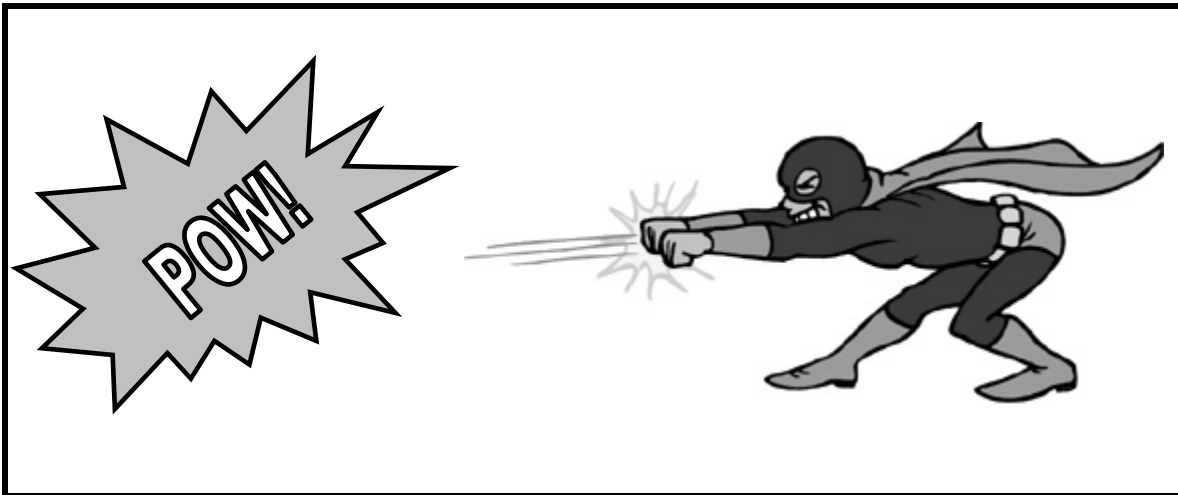
Another way to write descriptively is to use **onomatopoeia** (on-o-mat-o-pee-ya). Onomatopoeias are words that sound like their meaning. For example, *pop*, *sizzle*, *bang*.

**Example:**



**Buzz, buzz, buzzing** bee,  
Pollen covered wings and feet,  
**Whirrs** out of my sight.

Many comic books use *onomatopoeia* to create sound effects.



8. Read the passage below. Underline any onomatopoeia that you find.

*Scratch, scratch, scratch! I rolled over and peeked out of one eye. Her big green eyes were peering at me through the window screen. My eye shut again and I wiggled my face down between two pillows.*

*“Meeeeooooow!” she screeched.*

*“Oh, alright,” I sighed as my feet thumped down on the cold cement floor.*

*Making my way to the kitchen, I could see the shadow leaping from one window to the next. I splashed some milk in a bowl, set it on the windowsill, and poured myself a cup of coffee. It had been the same routine every day for the past two months. As I sat listening to her lap, lap, lapping the milk out of the bowl, I wondered where she had come from and how she found me.*



A **simile** is created when you compare two nouns (persons, places or things) that are not alike, using "like" or "as."

**Example:** *This is light as a feather.*

*He eats like a pig.*

A **metaphor** is when you compare two seemingly dissimilar nouns. Unlike simile, you don't use "like" or "as" in the comparison.

**Example:** *He is my rock.*

*She is a graceful butterfly.*

Write an **S** if the sentence is a simile and an **M** if it is a metaphor. The first one is done for you.

- S**   9. She eats like a pig.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. That smells like garbage.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. That car is a tank.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Her cooking tastes like heaven.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. This room is a pigpen.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Her voice is as beautiful as a songbird.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. This room is a sweat box.

**Analogies** are created when two things are compared in order to show how they are similar. *Analogy* is another way to say “word relationship.” Often times, the format for analogies is:

\_\_\_\_\_ is to \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_ is to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Example: Analogy:** Bark is to dog as meow is to cat.

This analogy shows the relationship between each set of words. So what does this relationship tell us?

In this example, we are comparing the noises each animal makes. Dogs bark and cats meow.

**Let’s look at another example:** Toe is to foot as finger is to hand.

Analogies can also be written like this:

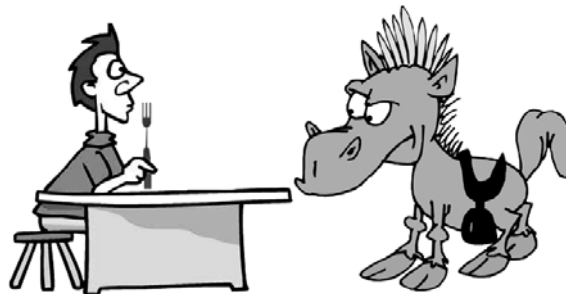
Toe : foot :: finger : hand

Complete each analogy below. The first one is done for you.

16. **Anchor** is to **boat** as **brake** is to **car**.
17. Eye is to sight as \_\_\_\_\_ is to hearing.
18. \_\_\_\_\_ is to ocean as soil is to land.
19. Cow is to spots as zebra is to \_\_\_\_\_.
20. Pen is to author as brush is to \_\_\_\_\_.
21. Racket : \_\_\_\_\_ :: bat : baseball.
22. Television : \_\_\_\_\_ :: radio : listen.
23. \_\_\_\_\_ : rural :: city : urban.
24. Cupcakes : sweet :: coffee : \_\_\_\_\_.
25. Paper : book :: ink : \_\_\_\_\_.

**Hyperbole** (hi-per-bo-lee) uses extreme exaggeration for effect on the reader.

**Example:** *I'm so hungry I could eat a horse.*



Do you think the person saying this can really eat a whole horse? No way! What the person really means is they are very hungry. Hyperbole is a dramatic way to get your message across to someone else.

Explain what each hyperbole really means.

26. I have a ton of work to do.

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27. Her legs are a mile long.

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28. I've told you a million times...

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**Idioms** are words, phrases, or expressions that have different meanings than what you would find in a dictionary. Idioms are not meant to be taken literally. You may hear someone use an idiom in everyday conversation. You may also come across idioms in novels, the newspaper, or articles.

**Example:** *I'm all ears!*



The idiom, "***I'm all ears***" does not literally mean that someone is covered in ears. It means that someone is ready to listen.



Draw a line to match the idiom with the correct explanation.

- |  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 29. Do you have ants in your pants?      | a. Trying not to upset anyone. |
| 30. You are like a bull in a china shop. | b. Unable to sit still.        |
| 31. Don't rock the boat.                 | c. Being wild and reckless.    |
| 32. It's written all over your face.     | d. Showing emotion.            |

**Personification** is a phrase, or figure of speech, which gives the qualities of a person to an animal, an object, or an idea. This element is used by the author to communicate certain feelings towards something and to force the reader to look at these things differently. Often times, emotions and action words are used in personification.

**Example:** Let's explore personification with this sentence:

**The dandelions moved in the wind.**

There are many ways of thinking about how a dandelion could move in the wind. If it is a nice, breezy day and we want to show the playful nature of the dandelion, we could say:

**The dandelions danced in the wind.**

Replacing ***moved*** with ***danced*** makes the reader think about the graceful movements of dancers.

If it is a violently stormy day, and we want to show the effects of the wind on the dandelions, we could say:

**The dandelions fought in the wind.**

Replacing *moved* with *fought* makes the reader think about the unpleasant and destructive effects of stormy weather.

Here are some more examples of personification that you may have heard before. Circle the word or words that have human characteristics. The first one is done for you.

33. My computer hates me.
34. The camera loves me.
35. Opportunity knocked on the door.
36. The sun greeted me this morning.
37. The tulips stared up at the sky praying for rain.
38. The raindrops kissed my face.
39. Love has turned its back on me.
40. The flames danced with the wind.



**Symbols** stand for something else, whether it be a person, object, idea, situation, or action. For example, the flag is the symbol of our country. It stands for freedom.

**Some common symbols in literature are:**

*Flowers stand for beauty or womanhood.*

*Doves stand for peace.*

*Skull or bones stand for death.*

Read the poem and answer the questions that follow.

My rose, Oh rose!  
Devoured by the slinking,  
Bottomless pit of a worm.  
His mouth is tickled  
With your sweet dew  
And my salty tears.  
We shall not weather  
The storm, sweet rose.  
For your crimson joy  
Has faded to black.

41. What do you think this poem is about? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Explain what you think each symbolizes:

42. Rose: \_\_\_\_\_

43. Worm: \_\_\_\_\_

44. Storm: \_\_\_\_\_

45. Black: \_\_\_\_\_

## ← Answer Key

1. The second sentence describes the boy as young. It tells us that he struggled to pull the wagon up the hill. It also tells us that the wagon was rickety and the hill was steep.
2. The author sees his/her breath, geese flying south, smoke coming from chimneys, and leaves in the process of dying and falling off of tree limbs.
3. The author hears the geese honking as they fly south.
4. The author feels the crisp chill in the air. The author smells the smoke from the chimneys.
5. The air is described as crisp and chilly.
6. The geese are described as flying south in formation and making a honking sound.
7. The leaves are described as bright colored until they die and turn brown and fall from the tree limbs.
8. You should have underlined the following words: Scratch, scratch, scratch!; Meeeeooooow!; screeched; thumped; splashed; lap, lap, lapping.
9. S
10. S
11. M
12. S
13. M
14. S
15. M
16. car
17. ear
18. water
19. stripes
20. artist
21. tennis
22. watch
23. country
24. bitter
25. pen
26. "I have a ton of work to do." means that the person has a lot of work to do, not a literal ton of work.
27. "Her legs are a mile long." means that the woman has very long legs. It is impossible for a person's legs to be a mile long.
28. "I've told you a million times..." doesn't mean literally one million times; it means the person has told you a lot of times.
29. b
30. c
31. a
32. d
33. hates
34. loves
35. knocked
36. greeted
37. stared,  
praying
38. kissed
39. turned its  
back
40. danced
41. There can be many interpretations of this poem. You should write what you believe it is about. For example, you may think this poem is about the end of a relationship.
42. Roses can symbolize love, beauty, happiness, etc.
43. Worms can symbolize death, men, destruction, etc.
44. Storms can symbolize conflict, destruction, etc.
45. The color black often symbolizes death or an end to something.