

## ⚡ PREPARE

**CONCEPT** Sensory language engages readers' senses of sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch. Readers can use sensory details to connect with and better understand what they read.

**VOCABULARY** imagery, sensory language

**MATERIALS** Lesson reproducibles

## ⚡ INSTRUCT

### **ANCHOR CHART** [*Display Reproducible page 1.*]

- Introduce the **Concept** of this lesson. (See above.)
- Explain that authors sometimes use descriptive details in their writing (i.e., “the bitter, icy winds” or “the warm rays of the golden sun”). These descriptive details are examples of **sensory language**. Writers use words to create a picture in the reader’s mind; this **imagery** is often closely tied to the senses of *sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch*.
- Review the terms **imagery** and **sensory language** on the **Anchor Chart**, and direct students to the visual examples.
- Read and discuss the *So, what’s in it for me?* section with students. (Optional: Review this section when the lesson is complete to reinforce the skill.)

## ⚡ PRACTICE

### **[Display Reproducible page 2, Part A.]**

- Read the directions with students, and provide support as they select their answers.
- Prompt students: *Which of your senses do the descriptive details in this sentence engage? Which sense best fits this sentence? What is the purpose of the sensory language in these sentences?* (The sensory language helps you create an image in your mind – this is known as imagery.)

### **[Display Reproducible page 2, Part B.]**

- Read the directions with students, and provide support as they read the story and fill in the blanks.
- Prompt students: *Which of the descriptive details best fit the sentence? How does the sensory language improve the imagery in the sentence? What type of image do these details help create in your mind?*

### **[Display Reproducible page 3, Part C.]**

- Read the directions with students, and provide support as they fill in the blanks.
- If needed, explain that a restaurant review is written by someone who is judging the quality of a restaurant for the benefit and knowledge of others.
- Prompt students: *Which of your senses do the descriptive details in this sentence engage? Under which sense would you write this descriptive detail? What type of image do these details help create in your mind?*

### **[Display Reproducible page 4, Part D.]**

- Read the directions with students, and provide support as they fill in the blanks.
- Prompt students: *Which of the descriptive details best fit the sentence? How does the sensory language improve the imagery in the story?*

# ANSWER KEY FOR TEACHER REFERENCE

[Blank student copies are found on Reproducible pages 2, 3, & 4.]






## [Reproducible page 2, Part A]

<sup>1</sup> The spicy smell of taco seasoning mixes with the scent of canned fruit salad before I even enter the room. <sup>2</sup> A long line stretches from the wide doorway to the kitchen. <sup>3</sup> Loud student voices can be heard above the clatter of trays. <sup>4</sup> The clicks of plastic forks and the scraping of chairs against the floor add to the noise. <sup>5</sup> Suddenly, there is a blast of chili-scented steam. <sup>6</sup> [My mouth waters as I think about biting into a crunchy shell. <sup>7</sup> I can barely wait to taste the delicious taco covered with spicy, melted cheese.] <sup>8</sup> [grip my tray and hope they don't run out of tacos before it's my turn to order...!]

## [Reproducible page 2, Part B]

- 1. She took the pie from the oven. It was hot and it smelled good.**  
Just out of a hot brick oven, the **fresh-baked, golden** crust of the pie overflows with **steaming, juicy** berries.
- 2. The old, tired man yawned.**  
The man's mouth **opened wide** as he yawned, and the skin wrinkled around his **toothless** mouth.
- 3. The wind was blowing, and it was cold outside.**  
The **bitter** wind pushed against us, turning our blood into **frozen slush**.
- 4. The big monster was scary.**  
The **giant** monster stood and roared so loudly that our **bones rattled**.

## [Reproducible page 3, Part C]

 Sight	 Sound	 Smell	 Taste	 Touch
glowing	"Come eat here"	scented of baked bread	fresh	firmness
massive	crunch noise	aroma of spices	tangy	crisp
candles lit	pleasant	garlic and herb	delicious	warm from the oven

## [Reproducible page 4, Part D]

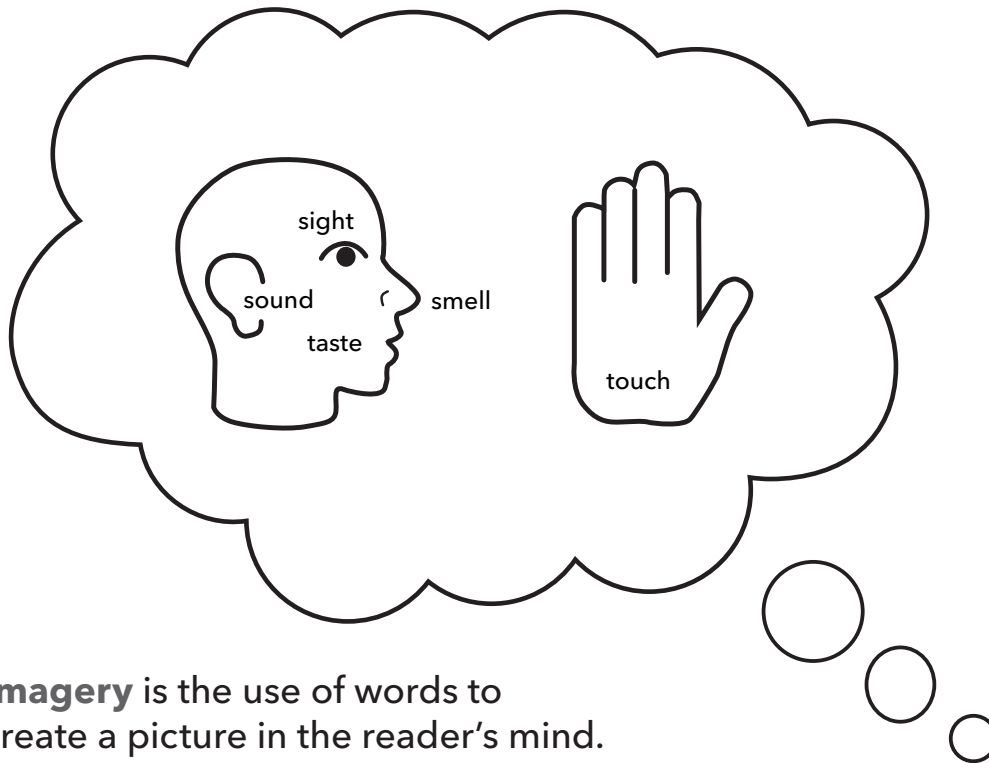
Today was moving day. I was **heartbroken** about moving to our new house. It was **ancient** and had been **abandoned**. The front porch was filled with **rusty toys** left behind by the previous owners. The windows were **scummy and cracked**. My new bedroom **reeked like gym socks**. Worst of all, there were **groans and footsteps** coming from the basement.

My sense of \_\_\_\_\_ **sight** \_\_\_\_\_,  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **sound** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ **smell** \_\_\_\_\_,  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **taste** \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ **touch** \_\_\_\_\_ are  
 engaged when I add better \_\_\_\_\_ **imagery** \_\_\_\_\_.

## ANCHOR CHART

# Sensory Language

**Sensory language** uses words that describe how things look, sound, smell, taste, or feel.



**Imagery** is the use of words to create a picture in the reader's mind.



You: Words, words, and more words. I'm drowning in words. Why did you write all these words?!

Writer: I chose those words carefully. I want you to really see, hear, smell, taste, and feel what I'm describing.

You: Ok, it worked—senses activated. But now what?

Writer: Think about what I'm trying to tell you. It might be why my characters hate each other, or how terrifying this part of the story is, or why you need a better deodorant. Trust me, I didn't write all those words just to torture you. I have something important to say!

## ⚡ PRACTICE

A. Read the story. Then, identify examples of sensory language that describe sight, smell, sound, taste, and touch by following the steps below.

- ✓ Circle the 1 example of sensory language that describes sight.
- ✓ Draw a dotted line below the 2 examples of sensory language that describe sounds.
- ✓ Underline the 2 examples of sensory language that describe smells.
- ✓ [Place brackets] around the 2 examples of sensory language that describe tastes.
- ✓ Draw a box around the 1 example of sensory language that describes touch.

<sup>1</sup> The spicy smell of taco seasoning mixes with the scent of canned fruit salad before I even enter the room. <sup>2</sup> A long line stretches from the wide doorway to the kitchen. <sup>3</sup> Loud student voices can be heard above the clatter of trays. <sup>4</sup> The clicks of plastic forks and the scraping of chairs against the floor add to the noise. <sup>5</sup> Suddenly, there is a blast of chili-scented steam. <sup>6</sup> My mouth waters as I think about biting into a crunchy shell. <sup>7</sup> I can barely wait to taste the delicious taco covered with spicy, melted cheese. <sup>8</sup> I grip my tray and hope they don't run out of tacos before it's my turn to order...!

B. Read each sentence. Then, use the descriptive details in the box to rewrite the statements to include imagery.

toothless	fresh-baked, golden	bitter	steaming, juicy
giant	frozen slush	opened wide	bones rattled

1. **She took the pie from the oven. It was hot and it smelled good.**

Just out of a hot brick oven, the \_\_\_\_\_ crust of the pie overflows with \_\_\_\_\_ berries.

2. **The old, tired man yawned.**

The man's mouth \_\_\_\_\_ as he yawned, and the skin wrinkled around his \_\_\_\_\_ mouth.

3. **The wind was blowing, and it was cold outside.**

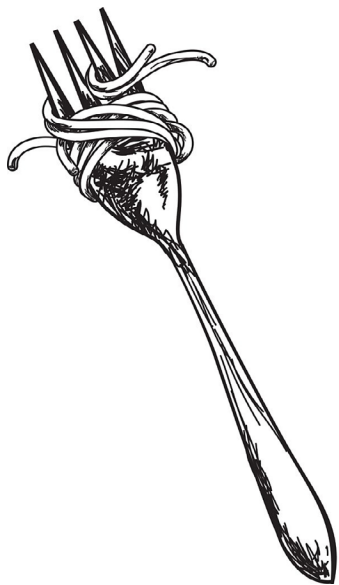
The \_\_\_\_\_ wind pushed against us, turning our blood into \_\_\_\_\_.

4. **The big monster was scary.**

The \_\_\_\_\_ monster stood and roared so loudly that our \_\_\_\_\_.

## ⚡ PRACTICE (CONTINUED)

C. Read the restaurant review. As you read, notice the descriptive details that are in bold. Then, in the chart below, rewrite each bold descriptive detail beneath the sense it is engaging.








### Restaurant Review

If you're looking for great Italian food, then Ready Spaghetti is for you. The **glowing** neon sign seems to say "Come eat here" from the roadside.

When you walk in the door, you are greeted by the **scent of baked bread**. All the pasta is homemade and tastes so **fresh**! I particularly enjoyed the Chef's Special. It was made with spaghetti that was thick and had just the right **firmness**. When you bite into the **crisp**, thin slices of bacon it makes a great "**crunch**" noise. A **tangy** tomato sauce is poured on top. The **delicious** cheese and the **aroma of spices** brought the dish together. The portions look **massive** on the plates!


The atmosphere is charming. Everywhere you look, there are **candles lit!** Also, the noise level was **pleasant**. The service is friendly and prompt. The moment we took our seats, someone delivered a basket of rolls that still felt **warm from the oven**. The server was attentive during the meal, to make sure that our every wish was granted. The **garlic and herb** smells of wonderful Italian food will linger long after you leave!

 Sight	 Sound	 Smell	 Taste	 Touch
			fresh	
		aroma of spices		crisp

## ⚡ PRACTICE (CONTINUED)


D. Read the story. Use the descriptive details in the box to improve the imagery in the story. Then, complete the statement below.

Today was moving day. I was unhappy about moving to our new house. It was old and had been empty for years. The front porch was filled with things left behind by the previous owners. The windows were dirty. My new bedroom smelled bad. Worst of all, there were strange noises coming from the basement.



- |                    |                      |                       |
|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| ancient            | rusty toys           | reeked like gym socks |
| abandoned          | groans and footsteps |                       |
| scummy and cracked | heartbroken          |                       |

Today was moving day. I was \_\_\_\_\_ about moving to our new house. It was \_\_\_\_\_ and had been \_\_\_\_\_. The front porch was filled with \_\_\_\_\_ left behind by the previous owners. The windows were \_\_\_\_\_. My new bedroom \_\_\_\_\_. Worst of all, there were \_\_\_\_\_ coming from the basement.



My sense of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ are engaged when I add better \_\_\_\_\_.