

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

# Narrative Writing Assignment

## Utilizing Sensory Details

**Concrete** means specific, solid. **Sensory** means relating to any of the senses. Notice in the following two columns how the images in Column I are general and have little sensory appeal, while the examples in Column II are concrete because they appeal strongly to the senses.

**I**

A tie

A chair

**II**

A red silk tie with bright yellow daisies

A mahogany rocking chair that cracks and groans

Now you try:

The ceiling

A locker

A pen

One way to create pictures is to use the exact word you want rather than a general term that needs too many descriptive words to make the picture specific. Readers prefer the words *elm* or *oak* to *tree* because they get an added identification for the object through the exactness of the name.

**I**

Tool

**II**

Hammer, pliers, screwdriver

Now try the following words:

Car

Book

Flower

**Describing your world**

**Descriptive writing** is a way of capturing strong images and events and exploring them for yourself and others. The tools available to you are your powers of observation and your command of sensory words (words that appeal to the five senses: sight, touch, sound, taste and smell). The list below gives examples of precise words that appeal to the various senses:

## **Sight**

There are hundreds of color names beyond the usual ones. One way to help with this would be to look in your box of Crayola crayons to see the names they have assigned to each color.

Instead of red, try using **pink, salmon, coral, maroon, burgundy, crimson** or **scarlet**.

Shapes can be almost anything: **flat, hexagonal, fat, thin, tapering, hollow** or **flared**.

The appearance of an object or person can vary widely: **spotted, transparent, sturdy, spindly, expensive, exotic** or **delicate**.

## **Sound**

You can go far beyond sounds that are just loud or soft: **noisy, screeching, echoing, thunderous**, or **whispering**.

## **Touch**

Touch is a bit more difficult to define, but here are some examples of touch words: **slippery, coarse, velvety, sticky, crisp, limp, scratchy**, or **soft**.

## **Smell and Taste**

Here are some smell and taste words related to foods: **rancid, rotten, burnt, sour, sweet, bitter** or **fresh**.

Using your **senses**, list the **details** that describe your favorite room:

**Sight**

**Sound**

**Touch**

**Smell**

**Taste**