



CREATING A MOOD AND ATMOSPHERE

Year 5 Lesson Plan 2

This lesson will be exploring mood and atmosphere. The words you choose will affect how the reader feels.

For example, if you describe a sad scene the reader will feel unhappy.

If you describe a frightening scene the reader will feel scared.

What's in the cage?

What kind of mood and atmosphere does this picture create...happy, sad, moody, melancholy. Discuss with your partner.

The 5 Senses

The five senses can help to create mood and atmosphere...what can be seen, heard, touched etc.

See

Hear

Smell

Touch

Taste



Example: A cold wind swirled restlessly disturbing the patchy grass and grubby plants on the ground in front of the isolated figure. Dirty-grey clouds hung listlessly overhead and below, the bleak town stretched out; little lifeless streets with dark, dull houses. The figure sat with rounded, slumped shoulders, greying hair covered the head held in bony hands.



What is the mood and atmosphere?

What words and phrases create this?



What is the mood and atmosphere?

What words and phrases create this?

A cold wind swirled restlessly disturbing the patchy grass and grubby plants on the ground in front of the isolated figure. Dirty-grey clouds hung listlessly overhead and below, the bleak town stretched out: little lifeless streets with dark, dull houses. The figure sat with rounded, slumped shoulders, greying hair covered the head held in bony hands.

Key:

Adjective choice choices

Adverb and Verb choices

Word Choices

(Word choices means which words has the writer chosen, to create a particular atmosphere)

Look at these two paragraphs

The beach was chaos. Screaming children charged about all over the place, stampeding through the picnics of innocent beach goers. Out of control dogs splattered all and sundry with a vile mix of drool, seawater and sand; whilst seagulls dive bombed anyone foolish enough to keep food in their hand more than a second or two.

The beach was vibrant with activity. I could hear the joyful shouts of children mixed with the barking of excited dogs coming from the water's edge. Overhead the seagulls danced and squawked, awaiting their chance to commandeer any stray item of food amidst the hustle and bustle.



Ask the children to share what they have described for *Hear*
and get the children to try and create the sounds
as a group to bring to life
the environments that the creatures inhabit.

If possible record the sounds on a device and play them back to the class.



Look at this sentence: Dave walked up the stairs.

This sentence creates no atmosphere. We cannot tell a thing about Dave, his state of mind, or the scene he is in. We can fix this by choosing a stronger verb for our purposes. What extra information do you have in these sentences?

- Dave crept up the stairs.
- Dave fled up the stairs.
- Dave skipped up the stairs.
- Dave stomped up the stairs.

How can I create atmosphere?

- Atmosphere isn't only about description. Consider carefully every single word.
- Use sensory detail such as the five senses – sight, sound, touch, smell and taste – can be effective in creating a strong atmosphere.
- Trying to create a sense of unease or confusion? Play with the order of your words, vary sentence length or use more unusual word choices.
- How about a melancholic ghostliness? Think of a quick channel of freezing water as you lie back in a hot bath.



Up level your verbs and adjectives!

If you want to create a heightened sense of suspense or fear in a scene, make a mood word list you can use.

For example, you can create a creepy mood in an old, dilapidated house by describing sounds that suggest eerie presence.

For example:

- Creaking
- Rattling
- Thumping
- Whistling (of the wind)
- Moaning
- Humming

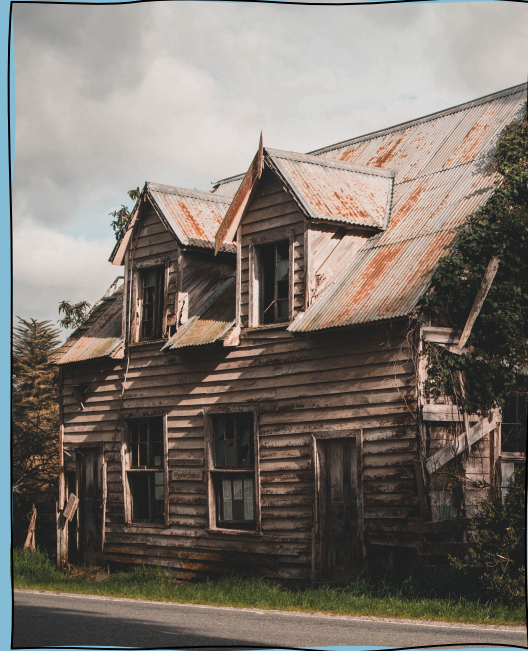




What do you think it would feel like to be standing right here?

Think of vocabulary to describe the weather that would help to create an atmosphere.

Think of words to describe what you might see, hear and touch as you walked along the path to this derelict building.



What words would you use to describe the weather?

What could you see, hear and feel?

Where are these people going?

Where have they been?

How are they moving?



Share your words and phrases and then write a class description of one of the images.



