

# DESCRIPTIVE WRITING

SECONDARY 3 ENRICHED

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

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Descriptive Essays **magnify** a single subject, **reveal** many **sensory details** and describe the writer's feelings about it.

Example: Non descriptive sentence: There are grapes in the bowl.

Descriptive sentence: The plump purple grapes in the bowl looked tempting.

A writer creates pictures in a reader's mind by telling him/her how something looks, sounds or feels.

**Example:** Compare Description A with Description B.

**Description A:** *I walked into the house.*

**Description B:** *I pushed open the heavy wooden door of the old house. A cobweb brushed my face, and broken glass, sparkling like ice, crushed under my feet.*

The key to a good descriptive essay is the details. Given below is a list of various types of details.

Type of Detail	Definitions and Examples
Simile	compares two things using like or as e.g. <i>The terrible news hit us like a tidal wave.</i>
Metaphor	says that something is something else e.g. <i>The dog's wagging tail was a welcoming smile.</i>
Sensory description	describes with words that are understood by the five senses.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Sights</li><li>➤ Sounds</li><li>➤ Smells</li><li>➤ Tastes</li><li>➤ Sensations</li></ul>	<i>the blinding lightening</i> <i>the crack of the basketball bat</i> <i>the sweet perfume of roses</i> <i>the juicy orange</i> <i>the prickly thorns</i>
Measurements	Estimates size to help the reader understand more. <i>The grass snake was tinier than a pencil.</i>

# HOW TO WRITE A DESCRIPTIVE TEXT

## INTRODUCTION

- Attention grabber/**Hook**
- Details to introduce the object

**Hook:** It grabs the reader's attention with an interesting beginning. Hooks can be:

✓ **Thought-provoking questions**

*Did you ever wonder, why do ALL children love icecreams??*  
(Topic: My Favorite Food)

✓ **Quotations**

*"Do the thing you fear; and death of fear is certain."* (Topic: Leadership)

✓ **An anecdote**

*It was April and the heat had an explosive effect on me which shaped my frustration into an essay about ...* (Topic: Summers)

✓ **Statistical data**

*The Salt Lake City is the lowest point of Earth measuring 400 metres below sea level....* (Topic: Salt Lake City)

## BODY

- Detail 1
- Detail 2

Arrange the details in order. Include just enough details to keep your audience in suspense. Make your audience feel what they would feel if they would be there.

## CONCLUSION

- Meaning/Importance of the described thing for you

Let your reader know the meaning or significance of the object you have described – how it affects your life for better or worse.

## SAMPLE ESSAY

### *My Pet Cat*

Hook

*“Meowwwwwwwww!!” is the greeting sound you would hear whenever you walk through our front door. That’s Toby - my pet cat, who strolls through the house like a prideful lioness in the wilderness of the jungle.*

Details introducing object

Detail 1

*We got her three years back when she was just a blind, almost furless kitten of two days who could barely stand on her weak legs. Her paws were smaller than a pinky finger and her delicate, pink nose would rub against almost anything she’d come across. She became more and more beautiful as her white long Persian fur filled her body. Her azure coloured eyes grabbed attention whoever first set eyes on her. Her appealing, cuddly looks make her a true charmer.*

Note the descriptive adjectives, adverbs, similes and metaphors.

*The unique things people find about Toby apart from her appearance is her surprisingly friendly behavior. She’d walk down to any person sitting in our lounge without the slightest hesitation like an old pal and rub her face and neck against his feet for attention. She’s hardly ever reluctant to meet my friends. She’d make you feel she enjoys your cuddle once you pick her in your arms. And you could even be her super hot favourite if you buy her K n N’s*

Detail 2

Conclusion

*Toby is my closest companion, my treasure. I share all my sorrows and happy moments with her because I feel understood and loved back. Life would rather be incomplete without Toby.*

# Sensory Words

Keep the following lists of words to help you improve your writing. Using sensory words can help you provide more details and examples in your writing.

<b>Sound Words</b> (auditory details, auditory imagery)	<b>Touch Words</b> (tactile details, tactile imagery)	<b>Taste and                      Smell Words</b> (olfactory details, olfactory imagery)	<b>Sight Words</b> (visual details, visual imagery)	<b>Color Words</b>					
banging barking bawling blaring booming buzzing chattering chiming chirping cooing coughing crackling crashing croaking crunching crying dripping exploding fizzing gasping giggling growling grunting gurgling hissing hushing laughing mumbling	muttering piercing quiet rapping rasping rattling ringing rumbling rustling scratching screaming screeching singing slamming shouting silent snoring splashing stuttering tinkling wheezing whooping	abrasive biting boiling bubbly bulky bumpy burning clammy coarse cool crisp cushioned damp drenched feathery fine fluffy foamy freezing furry fuzzy glassy greasy gritty gushy hairy heavy hot	humid lacy leathery light lukewarm metallic mushy numbing oily rocky sandy scalding scorching shaggy silky slimy slippery sloppy smooth spongy steamy sticky tangled tender thick tough velvety warm	acid acidic alkaline aromatic biting bitter bland burnt buttery cold earthy floury flowery fresh fruity garlicky heartly hot lemony medicinal minty moist moldy musty oily perfumed pickled piney	pungent raw rich rotten salty scented sharp sour spicy stagnant sweaty sweet tangy tasteless tough vile vinegary	agile blinding blurred brilliant bright brightness canary cloudy colorless dim dingy faded faint flat gleaming glistening glittering gloomy grimy hazy long luminous misty narrow oval round shadowy shallow	shiny slim smeared sparkling square streaked striped sudsy tarnished tottering trampled translucent twinkling variegated	<p><b><u>Whites</u></b> cream ivory pearl</p> <p><b><u>Reds</u></b> cherry coral crimson pink rose ruby salmon scarlet vermillion</p> <p><b><u>Oranges</u></b> apricot copper peach rust tangerine</p> <p><b><u>Greens</u></b> emerald lime forest olive</p>	<p><b><u>Browns</u></b> bronze chocolate cinnamon hazel khaki tan</p> <p><b><u>Blues</u></b> sapphire turquoise midnight</p> <p><b><u>Yellows</u></b> amber canary gold lemon</p> <p><b><u>Purples</u></b> lavender lilac magenta plum</p> <p><b><u>Blacks</u></b> raven slate</p>

## **CANDY DESCRIPTION:**

Pick a piece of candy (any! or any packaged food if you don't have candies at your house) complete the following boxes about the chosen candy/food. Then, on the following page, write a short text (150-200 words) about the candy/food. Make me feel as if I had it in my hands!

**WHAT I SEE**

**WHAT I FEEL**

**WHAT I SMELL**

**WHAT I HEAR**

**WHAT I TASTE**



## GUIDE TO WRITING A DESCRIPTIVE ESSAY: MY FAVOURITE PLACE

**Developing and Recording Details:** Close your eyes and picture the place you're thinking about. Record what you see, hear and smell. Move around. What can you touch? Do things feel smooth or rough or sharp? Record how you feel being there.

**Order:** Once you have the details, you need to arrange them. You can organize them in any of the following ways:

- Spatial Order: Details appear in order that you see them.
- Order of Importance: The most important detail usually appears first. You may want to organize your ideas that gradually lead up to this important detail.

**Writing and Revising:** After noting details and organizing them in a way that makes sense, read your essay and answer the following questions:

- Does the description create a clear picture in my mind?
- Is it clear why this place is important to me?

### CREATIVE WRITING

Activity: Follow the steps above to write a descriptive essay about 'My Favourite Place'.

What do I see?	
What do I smell?	
How do I feel being there?	
What can I touch?	
What can you hear?	



Now that you have completed the activity of p.8 about your favorite place, write a text that will include this description. Make sure you will make me (the reader) feel as if I were at your favorite place too! Your text should be 100-200 words.

**My Favorite Place**

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