Grade 5 English Language Arts Week of October 5 – October 9

Lesson 2: Reading and Writing Descriptive Texts

Learn About Descriptive Texts

Check out this video to learn about descriptive text. https://youtu.be/zKeKuRIBu5Q

Your first task is titled *Descriptive Writing Notes*.

When you respond to questions, use complete sentences. If the question asks:

Why do you think descriptive writing important?

Start your answer with, "I think descriptive writing is important because... (you add the rest). Have fun!

1. What is descriptive writing?

2. Why do you think descriptive writing important?

3. What is the difference between poor and excellent descriptive writing?

4. Name four things you can find in good descriptive writing.



Descriptive Writing is Everywhere!

Writing that creates a picture in your mind is called descriptive text.

Writers of all walks of life use descriptive writing.

An autobiographer hopes to give you a window into his or her true life story.

A mystery novelist wants you to spot the possible clues as you read along in the novel.

A science fiction writer wants you to experience life on an alien planet.

You can enjoy and write descriptive text, too!



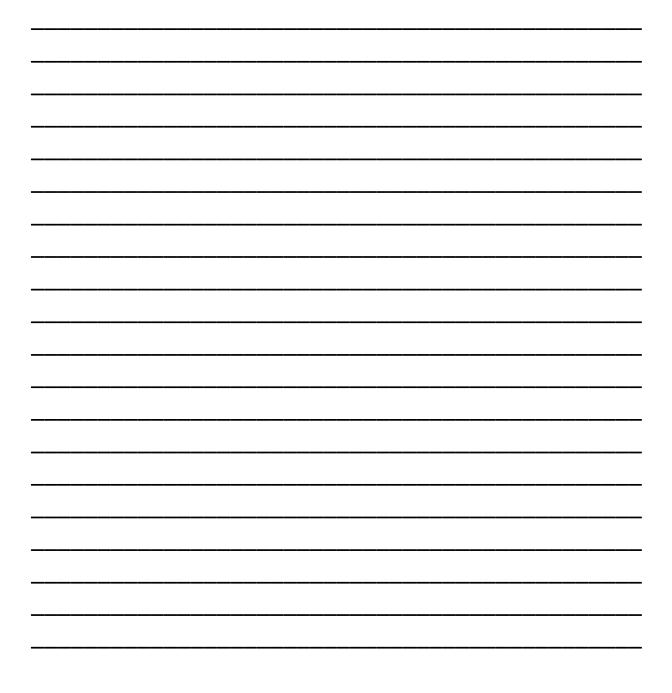
You will now complete Journal #1: Your Favourite Book

Name:

Date:_____

Journal #1: Your Favourite Book

Directions: Write about one of your favourite books; one that created vivid images in your mind as your read it. Provide the name of the book and the author. Give some examples of characters, settings, creatures, etc. that were memorable – and what you can still remember about them. Remember to start with a topic sentence.



Importance of Descriptive Writing

Read these two sentences:

l like **qó:**. There is a **teléqsel**.

Do you know what a **qó:** or a **teléqsel** is? Are you able to picture anything in your mind?

Unless you know the <u>Halq'eméylem (Links to an</u> <u>external site.)</u> language of the <u>Stó:l? (Links to an external site.)</u>, the answer is probably no.

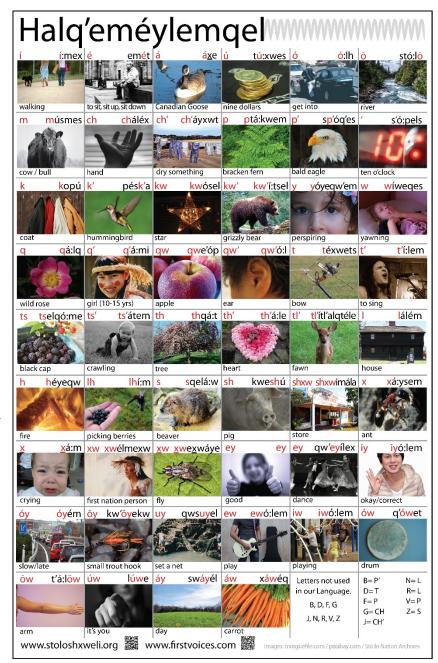
Now read these sentences:

I filled the sink with hot **qó:** and dish soap, so I could wash the stack of dirty dishes.

(Click here to learn how to pronounce gó: and find out its meaning.) (Links to an external site.)

The **teléqsel** shook its brown feathers, and then quacked as it waddled into the pond.

(Click here to learn how to pronounce telégsel and find out its meaning.) (Links to an external site.)



If you guessed that **qó:** is water and that **teléqsel** means duck, then you are correct.

But how did you figure this out?

Description and Detail

The second set of sentences had more description and detail that provided context clues. That helped you to build mental images to figure out what these words meant. That's why good description in writing is so important. Not only were the first set of sentences pretty basic and boring, they didn't help you to create any mental imagery.



Creating pictures in your mind (also known as visualizing) helps you to understand and connect with your reading material. Reading books that have good descriptive writing helps you to learn new words and learn about new worlds. It's also one of the best ways to improve your vocabulary and grammar skills.

As a writer, you want to be descriptive. You want to engage your readers and help them build pictures in their minds so they will connect to and understand your words and thoughts.

*Halq'eméylem is the language of the Stó: I? who are the First Nations of the Fraser Valley.

To learn more about the Halq'eméylem language, click here. (Links to an external site.)

Now you will complete Journal #2: Get Descriptive.

Name:

Date:

Journal #2: Get Descriptive

Directions: Go to this Halq'eméylem website: http://www.firstvoices.com/en/Halqemeylem/words

Choose at least five Halq'eméylem words and create descriptive sentences for each. Provide strong details to help the reader figure out the word. Put the English translation at the end of the sentence. You need at least five different sentences. Feel free to explore the First Voices website and choose another First Nations language to work with. You can also use the picture alphabet on the next page in this booklet. Here are two examples from the course:

I filled the sink with hot *qó*: and dish soap, so I could wash the stack of dirty dishes. (*qó: means water*)

The *teléqsel* shook its brown feathers, and then quacked as it waddled into the pond. (*teléqsel is a duck*)

