

Grade 6 Literacy
Week of October 19 – October 22

Lessons 2: Order and Mentor Texts

Good descriptive writing is organized. Some ways it can be organized are:

1. Chronological

Time-based - Ideas or events are presented in the order they happened. This is best for describing events. This can be used for describing place if you are showing how a place changes over time (through the day, season-to-season) or stays the same over time (grandma's kitchen over a series of visits).

Word clues that show chronological order: during, next, finally, at first, while, meanwhile, before, afterwards, suddenly, from then on.

2. Spatial

Uses location - Ideas or descriptions are presented top to bottom, left to right, right to left, or bottom to top. This is best for describing places.

Word clues that show spatial order: above, below, next to, beside, beyond, behind, around, near, in front of, over, to the right/left/north/south/east/west

Read the following examples of descriptive writing. As you read them, try to decide:

- What is the mood?
- How does the author use imagery (senses) and figurative language to create the mood?
- What is the organization? (Chronological or Spatial)
- What word clues tell you the organization?

Complete “Mood, Order, and More” while reading and rereading the texts.

Mt. Cheam Musings

On those lazy end-of-summer summer evenings, I like nothing more than to sit on the back deck, daydreaming about the carefree days of summer and wishing the fall and school would wait just a little bit longer. A cool, light breeze hints at the rapidly approaching school year. At eye level, in front of the trees, the meadow which is lush with succulent strawberries in June was becoming a colourful blanket of fall wild flowers. Rising above this and past the large, prickly cedars that border the edge of my yard like turrets on a fortress, a pyramid shaped mountain rises up in the distance. The peak, according to First Nations stories, is a mother overlooking her children in the valley, bringing a sense of calm to those of us under her watch. The first snow has settled on her peaks as fall approaches. The evening air smells fresh; I can feel the sweet breath of autumn as the wind of change whispers that it is almost time to return to routines. The sunset that fills the western sky with a deep red flame, setting the clouds ablaze, is reflected in the pinkness of the mountain top. As summer whittles away and time marches onward, I sadly realize that this wonderful wish will not come true.

Mt. Cheam Facts:

Elevation: 2104 metres

Mountain Range: North Cascades

Province; BC

First recorded climbers:
Ebe B. Knight and A.O.
Campbell in 1888

Hike: 9.5 km round trip, 4
hours, elevation gain 700
m



Sense of Place – Descriptive Writing – My Uncle’s House

All around was silent and still as we arrived at my old uncle’s mansion at the end of the street at the end of town. His bent-over posture and scratchy voice matched his house. Despite our monthly visits, I never felt fully at ease there. Can you imagine why? A dusty cobweb usually flew off the gatepost like a piece of cotton wool floating in the damp air. The walkway leading up to massive front door were cracked with weeds and dandelions poking out here and there. In my imagination which was working overtime, it always felt like great grey ghostly figures circled around the building screaming and howling their message to keep away. I cringed at each creak on the old warped stairs that led to the front door. Vines formed a twisted maze on the left side of the house, reaching their tentacles towards the roof. We jumped onto the creaky porch and pushed open the heavy oak door, hearing the hinges groan in protest. My uncle was not a good cleaner; the dust floating in the air seemed to coat my tongue as I held back salty tears. Splotches of original paint hinted at the house former prosperity. Cobwebs covered the corners, and I imagined tiny black spiders threading towards their prey. The old portraits that lined the walls seemed to be staring at me in reproach. Just as my steps were faltering, there to greet us, under a mane of matted hair, the warmth of my uncle’s smile made our visit just a little more bearable.



Photo by Rikki Austin on Unsplash

Sense of Place – Descriptive Writing – Sunset

Sunset at our favourite coastal camping spot is the time of day when the beauty of the day becomes the twinkling night sky and our hearts connect to each other and infinity. Below us and stretched out before us, the quiet waters mirror the brilliant sky and the peace in our hearts. Slowly, the blue, pink, and purple swirls in the horizon spin and twist like cotton candy at a carnival. Next, the sun moves to hide shyly behind the horizon while the moon races to take its prominent position in the night sky like a queen in her tower looking down on her people. Finally, as nearby crickets chirp their night song, the countless stars congregate above; the constellations are pictures of great legends from our past. Our minds connect in a slow crawl, mesmerized by the beauty, soaking in the cool air, smelling the dampness, and thoughtfully, quietly reflecting on the deeds that were done throughout the day. There is a coolness, a calmness, a bonding, and an inner warmth in our hearts when we watch the sunset at our favourite camping spot.



1.3B Mood, Order, and More

For each of the paragraphs, identify the overall mood, list examples of imagery, and find examples of figurative language: simile, metaphor, and alliteration. (The first one is done for you.)

1. Mt. Cheam Musings:

Overall image and mood: **Wistful, Sad, Longing, Melancholy.**

List 5 or more words or phrases of imagery (sensory description) and tell which one they are:

1. fell the sweet breath of autumn - sound
2. evening air smells fresh- smell
3. cool, light breeze, prickly cedars - touch
4. meadow with fall wild flowers, first snow, sunset, clouds ablaze- sight
5. wind of change whispers -sound

Two or more examples of figurative language (metaphor, simile, alliteration)

1. prickly cedars that border the edge of my yard like turrets on a fortress **-simile**
2. clouds ablaze - metaphor
3. whittles wonderful wish / past prickly pyramid - alliteration

Order: **Spatial**

Word clues that show the order: **at eye level, rising above this and past the,**

2. My Uncle's House

Overall image and mood: ****

List 5 or more words or phrases of sensory description and tell which one they are:

1. *****

2. *****

3. *****

4. *****

5. *****

Two or more examples of literary devices (metaphor, simile, alliteration)

1. *****

2. *****

Order:

Word clues that show the order:

3. Sunset

Overall image and mood: ****

List 5 or more words or phrases of sensory description and tell which one they are:

1. *****

2. *****

3. *****

4. *****

5. *****

Two or more examples of literary devices (metaphor, simile, alliteration)

1. *****

2. *****

Order:

Word clues that show the order:
