**Focus Lesson: Sensory Details**

**Essential Question**: How does an author include sensory detail into their narrative writing?

**Objective:** [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.3.d](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/W/5/3/d/)  
         Use concrete words and phrases and sensory details to convey experiences and events precisely.

**Assessment**: Sensory details chart

**Procedure**:

* + Discuss the five senses – see, hear, smell, taste and feel.
  + Do a shared writing on a chart with the five senses on the board about what you can see, hear, smell, taste and feel at a birthday party.
  + Once there are enough details under each of the five senses, tell students they just provided [sensory details.](https://www.brighthubeducation.com/high-school-english-lessons/23983-teaching-sensory-details-in-bradburys-the-pedestrian/)Sensory details are what writers use when [writing description](https://www.brighthubeducation.com/high-school-english-lessons/12557-teaching-imagery/) to ground a reader in a certain setting. We don't just use our eyes to remember a place; we use all five senses. Writers want to capture those feelings to make settings more real to readers.
  + Before you turn students loose to find sensory details, practice together as a class with a book full of sensory details such as [*Hatchet*](https://www.brighthubeducation.com/high-school-english-lessons/22244-hatchet-by-gary-paulsen-teaching-purpose/) by Gary Paulsen. Read a passage full of sensory details to your students. Ask them to make a note of any that they hear and which sense the detail addresses. Discuss their findings when you finish reading the passage.
  + Now practice!

Have students make a sensory chart in their writing about reading notebook and skim through their book they are reading now, and write down any sensory details they can find.

* + Share outcomes as a class.