

Name: _____

Date: _____

Period: _____

Descriptive Writing Practice

Show, Don't Tell: Bring Your Writing to Life

Instructions: For each prompt below, write a short descriptive passage. Use vivid sensory details (sight, sound, smell, touch, taste) and figurative language (simile, metaphor, personification) to create a strong image or mood. Write in complete sentences. For fill-in-the-blank items, choose the best word or phrase to complete the description.

1. **Short Answer:** Describe a thunderstorm approaching from a distance. Use at least two sensory details (e.g., sound, sight) and one simile.

2. **Essay / Long Response:** Write a paragraph describing an abandoned house at dusk. Focus on creating a mood of mystery or sadness. Use at least three sensory details and one metaphor.

3. **Fill in the Blank:** Complete the sentence with the most vivid word or phrase from the list: *creaked*, *whispered*, *groaned*, *sighed*.

The old wooden door _____ open, revealing a dark hallway.

4. **Short Answer:** Describe the taste and texture of a fresh, ripe peach. Use one simile and one sensory detail for taste.

5. **Essay / Long Response:** Write a paragraph describing a busy city street at noon. Use at least three sensory details (sight, sound, smell) and one example of personification.

6. **Fill in the Blank:** Choose the best word from the list: *bitter, smoky, sweet, sour*.

The air in the coffee shop was thick with a _____ aroma that clung to my clothes.

7. **Short Answer:** Describe the feeling of walking barefoot on a cool, damp lawn early in the morning. Use at least two sensory details (touch, smell) and one metaphor.

8. **Essay / Long Response:** Write a paragraph describing a character's first bite of a homemade chocolate chip cookie, still warm from the oven. Focus on taste, texture, and emotion. Use at least two sensory details and one simile.

9. **Fill in the Blank:** Complete the sentence with the most descriptive word from the list: *glared, shone, flickered, blazed*.
The single candle _____ weakly in the drafty room, casting dancing shadows on the wall.

10. **Essay / Long Response:** Write a paragraph describing a quiet snowfall at night. Use at least three sensory details (sight, sound, touch) and one example of personification. Create a mood of peace or isolation.

Answer Key

1. **Sample Answer:** At first, a low rumble like a giant's growl rolled across the plains. Then, a jagged fork of lightning split the darkening sky, illuminating the distant hills for a split second. The air grew heavy and still, carrying the faint, metallic smell of rain.
2. **Sample Answer:** The house sagged like a tired old woman, its roof bowed and its windows like vacant, staring eyes. The peeling paint fluttered in the breeze, and the porch steps groaned under the weight of memory. A musty smell of damp wood and decay seeped from every crack, while the silence was so deep it felt like a held breath. The whole place was a monument to a forgotten sadness.
3. **Answer:** *creaked*
4. **Sample Answer:** The peach was soft and warm from the sun, its fuzzy skin giving way to a burst of sweet, juicy flesh. The taste was like liquid honey mixed with sunshine, and the texture was smooth and melting on my tongue.
5. **Sample Answer:** The city street was a river of honking cars and chattering people. The sun blazed off the glass windows, making me squint. The smell of hot pretzels and exhaust fumes mixed in the air. The traffic lights blinked impatiently, urging the crowd to move faster. A street musician's saxophone wailed a lonely tune that was almost swallowed by the noise.
6. **Answer:** *smoky*
7. **Sample Answer:** The grass was a cool, damp carpet under my feet, each blade a tiny shock of wetness. The earth smelled rich and green, like the promise of spring. The sensation was a gentle, grounding embrace from the morning.
8. **Sample Answer:** The cookie was warm and soft, almost melting in my hand. The first bite released a wave of rich, buttery sweetness and dark chocolate that tasted like pure comfort. The edges were slightly crisp, but the center was gooey and warm, like a hug from the inside. It was the taste of home.
9. **Answer:** *flickered*
10. **Sample Answer:** The snow fell in a silent, unhurried dance, each flake a tiny, delicate star. The world was muffled, the usual sounds of the night swallowed by a soft, white blanket. The air was cold and clean, stinging my cheeks. The streetlights wore halos of soft light, and the snow seemed to whisper as it settled, covering everything in a peaceful, quiet hush.