

Description



For our first exercise, we're going to start with something easy. We're going to start with description.

Often, description and detail can be inspirational. Authors use words to create a scene, set a mood, and capture an image. The way we use words to describe something can add to our writing, a flair that would not be there if we did not describe what we see.

WHAT YOU NEED

- * A window you can look out of
- * A pen or pencil
- * Some writing paper
- * A clock or a stopwatch
- * An observant mind

WHAT TO DO

- * I want you to look out of a window. Doesn't matter which window; make it your favorite one. It can be the window above the sink in the kitchen that lets in that nice bit of sunlight in the morning, or your bedroom window that overlooks an oak tree. Doesn't matter where, as long as the window has a good view.
- * Time yourself for five minutes and just look out the window. Try to take in everything you can, every blade of grass, every person walking by, every noise that you hear. Really try to observe what is outside your window. From bottle caps in the grass to a bird on a tree branch, no detail is too silly.

* After your five minutes is up, go to another room in your house, somewhere comfortable where you enjoy writing. But make sure you can't see out your window. When you are comfortable, it is time to put your pen or pencil to the paper!

* Try to write a descriptive paragraph (no longer than a page though) of what you saw, trying to describe everything to the best of your ability. Don't use too many adjectives to describe what you saw; too many can over load a paragraph.

* When you are done writing your paragraph, go back to your window and read what you wrote. Were you able to capture your scene as you saw it? Or did your mind see other things? However it turned out, this exercise has no wrong or right answer.

It should just show you that description, when we stop long enough to use it, can make things seem more beautiful, more wonderful, more real. Description can give flair to your writing and make it breathe on the page.

Try it out a few times from a few different windows in your house if you'd like. You'd be surprised at what you see if you're paying attention.

