

Descriptive Writing Based on an Image

Name: _____

Date: _____

Lesson Objectives: to carefully consider how a piece of writing can be structured and focus on developing tone and atmosphere.

Task one: Around the image below, use your imagination to build ideas you could use to describe the setting as the opening for a story.

Sights:

Sounds:

Smells:

Touch:

Taste:

Words to describe atmosphere:



Who is the character?
Note key features:

What tone is suggested?
Which words help to show this?

Why are they there? What information could you withhold, yet suggest?

Plan your response. You are aiming for three decent sized paragraphs – think carefully about what order you are going to present information to your readers:

Paragraph one: Develop **atmosphere**

Paragraph two: Introduce character – think about **tone**

Paragraph three: Where are they going? Is there a back story? Keep **tone**.

Task Two: Write three descriptive paragraphs to the opening of a fantasy story which begins with the setting in the picture. Think carefully about the detail you will include and use a range of sentence types.

Helpful tips:

- Remember to vary the types of sentences you use.
- Do not use phrases like ‘They could see...’, ‘They could smell...’ – SHOW ME this through the description, don’t just tell me.
- Aim to use the following devices: *simile, metaphor, personification, alliteration* and *imagery*.
- Remember to use more ambitious vocabulary – i.e. instead of “*In the dark and gloomy forest...*” Try something like “*Murk and mist surrounded the gnarled trunks of every tree, engulfing the light, making it impossible to find a way through.*”