

Name: _____

Date: _____

ANALYZE CRAFT AND STRUCTURE ➔ **DESCRIPTIVE WRITING**

Descriptive writing uses **sensory details**, or language that appeals to the senses: sight, hearing, taste, smell, and touch. Effective description helps readers visualize settings, events, and characters clearly. It also helps convey emotions and ideas. Authors use description to emphasize a point of view and to create mood in a literary work.

- An author's **point of view** is his or her perspective or unique way of viewing a topic. Description helps to convey that point of view because it shows more than just what a subject looks like. It reveals how the author sees the subject.
- **Mood** is the overall feeling created in a reader by a literary work. The mood of a work can typically be described using emotion words, such as *joyous*, *gloomy*, *peaceful*, or *frightening*. Some literary works convey a single mood. In other works, the mood changes within the selection.

A. DIRECTIONS: In each sentence below, note the image and the sense to which it appeals. Then, on the line, write the sense from the list that best applies to the image.

sight • hearing • touch • taste • smell

1. _____ The call of water rushing swiftly over river rocks was our clue that the Rio Grande was just around the bend.
2. _____ Spring in the Big Bend was glorious, and the soft breeze carried the aroma of an explosion of wildflowers.
3. _____ When we reached the river, we stopped for a picnic of spicy bean tacos and sweet, juicy fresh fruit.
4. _____ Before getting into our kayak, we stretched out to relax on the soft grass, with the bright sun warming our skin.
5. _____ Closing my eyes, I imagined the beauty of the colorful canyons that the clear blue water would carry us through.

B. DIRECTIONS: Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

Jim's clothes were a bit outgrown, and the tan velvet of his overcoat was frayed and worn. He was tall and thin, with a narrow chest and longer-than-average arms. He wore a mother-of-pearl clip on his tie, and a white carnation in his buttonhole. He was nervous, but he was sure he could convince Mr. Waller to take him back as an agent. After a short wait, Betty ushered him into Waller's office so he could make his case.

1. Write four sensory details that could describe Jim. _____
2. What mood is created by the passage? _____
3. ____ What point of view does the author seem to have regarding Jim?
 - a. The author is sympathetic to Jim.
 - b. The author is not fond of Jim.
 - c. The author finds Jim funny.
 - d. The author thinks that Jim will fail.

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A. DIRECTIONS: Read the following passage. Then, answer the questions that follow.

With a wrinkled hand, the white-haired woman reached out gently to stroke the hair of the chimpanzee standing next to her. The group of students assembled could sense the trust and affection the two shared. The heat was oppressive, and mosquitoes and other insects buzzed in clouds around all of those present. As the woman told her story of life among the animals in this preserve, many of the students forgot the heat and the insect bites, carried away by the experiences she described.

1. Write three sensory details used to describe the woman.

2. Write two sensory details that describe the setting and atmosphere.

3. What mood is created by the passage? _____

4. ____ What point of view does the author seem to have regarding the woman in the passage? Write the letter of the best answer on the line.

- a. The author dislikes the woman.
- b. The author wants to show readers what elderly people are capable of doing.
- c. The author understands that the woman is quirky and odd.
- d. The author appreciates and respects the woman and her work.