

Setting, description, and perspective

Created by Caitlin Horrocks for the Grand Rapids Public Library,
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Some techniques for descriptive writing

- Perspective (description as seen and expressed through a particular lens)
- progression
- juxtaposition
- mystery/suspense (but not *too* much confusion)
- showing vs. telling (but “tell” when it’s useful!)
- context

A writing exercise

Choose 3 numbers,
each between 1 and 5
(example: 1 3 5)

- 1) An 8 year old girl
- 2) An 80 year old, gender up to you
- 3) A 25 year old man
- 4) A 45 year old, gender up to you
- 5) Someone from another planet or parallel universe or timeline

Enters

- 1) an amusement park
- 2) An Oz of some kind: alternate world, planet, timeline, dimension, etc.
- 3) a school (age/level/type up to you)
- 4) a Meijer store
- 5) a bar or restaurant

Where they

- 1) have never been before, and don't know what to expect
- 2) have never been before, but think they know what to expect
- 3) have been to once before, a long time ago
- 4) have been to a handful of times, timeframe up to you
- 5) have been to regularly

Write about this character entering, describing, and interacting with this place.

Questions?

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