

Sensory Images Chart

Sense	Book Title/Author	Passage
Sound		
Taste		
Smell		
Sight		
Touch		

Unforgettable Settings (Part 1)

Where do the stories you read take you? The story excerpts here will take you to unforgettable places—from an average house on an average street where dogs burn toast to the state of North Carolina where a young girl plans her escape from slavery.

READ THIS...

It was no surprise that Arthur Crandall burned the toast again. Arthur always burned the toast. His wife, Stella, was quite used to it, and she really didn't mind. It was a familiar smell in the morning that made her feel at home.

—from *Burnt Toast on Davenport Street* by Tim Egan.
Copyright © 1997 Tim Egan. (Houghton Mifflin, 1997)

TRY THIS...

How do you think having the characters burn toast helps create the setting for this book?

READ THIS...

5 July, 1825

Dear Mama,

Missus buried today in the little churchyard. Daddy walk with me to the cemetary. We wait behind the hemlock tree till the White folks gone, then stand by her grave. When my tears fall on the fresh durt, Daddy wrap his big rough hand around mine, but he dont cry at all. His face look as hard as the headstones that stand watch over that quiet place...

Mama, do you think Miss Margaret going to set me free in her will?

Your daughter,
Harriet Ann

—from *Letters from a Slave Girl: The Story of Harriet Jacobs* by Mary E. Lyons.
Copyright 1992 Mary E. Lyons. (Atheneum, 1992)

TRY THIS...

Through her letters, Harriet shares details of the people, places, events—even weather—that paint a picture of the time and place of her story. Think of a story you can tell in a letter. What sensory details will you include to help your reader see the setting?

What I want my reader to: see _____

taste _____ hear _____

smell _____ touch _____

Unforgettable Settings (Part 2)

In *Charlotte's Web*, E.B. White paints a strong picture of a pig's new home in just a few sentences. Read the excerpt from this story. Then answer the questions to tell what you find out.

READ THIS...

It was the kind of barn that swallows like to build their nests in. It was the kind of barn that children like to play in...Wilbur's new home was in the lower part of the barn, directly underneath the cows. Mr. Zuckerman knew that a manure pile is a good place to keep a young pig. Pigs need warmth, and it was warm and comfortable down there in the barn cellar on the south side.

—from *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White. Copyright © 1952
E.B. White. (HarperCollins, 1952)

TRY THIS...

Can you picture Wilbur's new home, snug in the barn next to the manure pile?

- ☀ What are some of the words that help you know what this barn is like?

- ☀ Close your eyes and pretend you're in the barn. What can you see, hear, smell, and touch?

- ☀ Draw a picture of what you see on the back of this paper.

- ☀ Compare your picture with a friend's. What's the same? What's not?
