

Words that Enhance Writing

When writing anything, one of the best ways to grab and keep a reader’s attention is to use sensory details. **Sensory details** are words that stir any of the five senses: touch, taste, sound, smell, and sight. For example, rather than saying “She drank the lemonade,” say: “She felt her tongue tingle as she sipped the frosty glass of tart, sugary lemonade.”

Touch				
arid	damp	fuzzy	sandy	sticky
balmy	dehydrated	gluey	satiny	stifling
blistering	dense	gritty	scorching	stocky
boiling	dried	hairy	searing	sultry
breezy	dull	heavy	shriveled	sweltering
bumpy	dusty	jagged	shrunken	tender
burning	elastic	leathery	silky	tepid
chilly	feathery	lukewarm	sizzling	thick
clammy	fleshy	mushy	slight	tough
coarse	fragile	oily	slippery	velvety
cool	fresh	prickly	spiky	waxy
crisp	frosty	rubbery	steamy	
Taste				
acidic	fatty	hearty	rotten	sugary
bitter	fiery	insipid	salty	syrupy
bittersweet	fishy	mild	smoky	tangy
bland	fresh	oily	spicy	tart
buttery	fruity	peppery	stinging	vinegary
crisp	greasy	pungent	sugared	
		raw		
Sound				
blaring	earsplitting	muted	scream	thunderous
boisterous	gurgle	noiseless	screech	tinkle
booming	hiss	noisy	shrill	unspoken
buzz	hum	patter	silent	whine
chime	hushed	peep	slam	whispered
clink	jingle	piercing	snap	whistle
crackle	low	raucous	squawk	
deafening	muffled	roar	thud	

Name _____ Period _____

Smell				
acid	flowery	moldy	pungent	spoiled
aromatic	fragrant	musty	rancid	stagnant
briny	fresh	odorous	reeking	stench
burnt	gaseous	perfumed	scented	tempting
earthy	minty	piney	sharp	
Sight				
ancient	dim	grassy	pristine	striped
angular	dingy	handsome	radiant	sturdy
animated	drab	hefty	ramshackle	sunny
arrogant	dramatic	insipid	regal	supple
attractive	elegant	irregular	rigid	swarming
awkward	energetic	irresistible	robust	swollen
beefy	exhausted	jammed	ruffled	tantalizing
blotched	exotic	lavish	shabby	tidy
bold	feeble	leafy	shadowy	timid
bright	flashy	lively	shapely	tinted
brilliant	flat	loose	sheer	tranquil
broken	flimsy	massive	shimmering	vibrant
bruised	fluffy	miniature	shiny	vivid
bulky	flush	muddled	sickly	wavy
chaotic	formal	muddy	slender	weightless
cheap	frail	murky	sparkling	weighty
cluttered	frightened	muscular	sparkly	wild
colored	frilled	opulent	speckled	wiry
congested	glassy	orderly	spotted	worn
crinkled	gloomy	painted	sprinkled	wrecked
curved	glossy	peaceful	stout	wrinkled
delicate	glowing	placid	stretched	

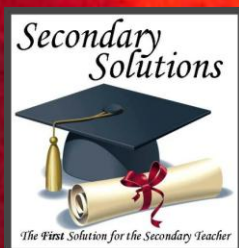
Name _____ Period _____

Colors

Red	Orange	Yellow	Green	Blue
blood bloodshot blush burgundy cardinal carmine cherry coral crimson damask garnet pink rose ruby ruddy salmon sanguine scarlet tomato	apricot copper coral peach rust tangerine titian	amber buff canary champagne eggshell gold golden lemon ocher saffron xanthic	apple chartreuse emerald forest jade kelly leaf lime olive pine reseda	aqua aquamarine azure bice cerulean cobalt indigo midnight navy sapphire turquoise
Purple	Brown	White	Black	Other
fuchsia heliotrope lavender lilac magenta maroon mauve plum violet	amber auburn beige bronze brunette chestnut chocolate cinnamon cocoa coffee drab fawn ginger hazel khaki mahogany nut sepia tawny toast umber	alabaster ashen blanched bloodless chalky cream fair frosted ghostly ivory pale pallid pasty pearl pearly sickly snowy	carbon charcoal coal dark ebony jet obsidian onyx pitch raven sable slate sooty	buff checkered freckled hounds-tooth iridescent opaque polka-dotted silver spotted striped transparent

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