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See it, feel it

Explain what a word picture makes the reader see and feel.

1 Learn



Writers use word pictures to make you **see** and **feel** something. Naming a simile or metaphor is just the start: the important bit is saying **what it does**.

The explain-it ladder

1. Name it
Is it a simile, metaphor or personification?

→

2. See it
What does it make me picture?

→

3. Feel it
How does it make me feel, and why?

Worked example: "The thunder boomed like a giant's drum."

1. **Name it:** a **simile**. It compares the thunder to a giant's drum, using "like".
2. **See it:** it makes me picture a huge, deep BOOM, so loud it seems to shake the sky.
3. **Feel it:** it makes me feel small and a bit nervous, **because** the storm sounds enormous and powerful.

Flip's tip: use these starters: "This makes me picture…" and "It makes me feel… **because**…". The word **because** shows you've really explained it.

Warm up: ring the feeling each word picture gives you.

"The shadows crept closer and closer." **calm** **nervous**

"The sun smiled down on our picnic." **cheerful** **scared**

Grown-ups: if your child stops at "it's a simile", ask, "And what does it make you see? How does that make you feel?" There's room for different answers, as long as they give a reason.

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2 Try it together a child and a grown-up, about 10 minutes



Feelings detectives

You need: a storybook, poem book or comic from home, this sheet and a pencil.

1. Flick through the book together and find three word pictures (similes, metaphors or personification).
2. Read each one aloud. Close your eyes: what do you each **see**?
3. Say how it makes you **feel**, and why. Do you both feel the same?
4. Write the word picture, what you see and how it makes you feel.

Word picture we found	What we see	How it makes us feel

Grown-ups: share your own picture and feeling too. Hearing that you see something different shows there's more than one good answer, as long as there's a reason from the words.

3 Practise

A. Name it: write **S** (simile), **M** (metaphor) or **P** (personification).

- ☐ 1. The stars winked at us.
- ☐ 2. The fog was a grey blanket.
- ☐ 3. The rain fell like tiny needles.
- ☐ 4. The angry wind slammed the door.
- ☐ 5. Her smile was a ray of sunshine.
- ☐ 6. The leaves were as crunchy as cornflakes.

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B. Explain the effect of each word picture from A.

"The fog was a grey blanket."
This makes me picture…

It makes me feel… because…

"The rain fell like tiny needles."
This makes me picture…

It makes me feel… because…

C. Ring the word picture that **fits the mood** best.

A spooky wood at night

a) The trees stretched out bony fingers.

b) The trees waved a cheerful hello.

A sunny picnic

a) The sun smiled down on us.

b) The sun glared like an angry eye.

D. Which sentence helps you picture it more? Tick it and say why.

☐ The car was fast.

☐ The car shot past like a bullet.

Challenge

Leo wrote: "'The wind howled like a wolf' is a simile." Has he explained the **effect** on the reader? Write a better explanation.

I can… Tick when you can.

- ☐ name a word picture and say what it makes me picture
- ☐ explain how it makes me feel, using "because"
- ☐ choose word pictures that match the mood