Name _____ Date _____

Word pictures in stories

Find word pictures in a story and judge how well they work.

1 Learn



Authors choose word pictures on purpose. To **evaluate** one, say what it makes you see and feel, and whether it **fits the mood** of the story.

The storm

The storm arrived at midnight. Rain hammered on the roof like a thousand angry fists.[1] The old house groaned and shivered in the wind.[2] Mia pulled her duvet tight: it was a warm shell around her.[3] Downstairs, the fire glowed like a friendly smile.[4]

Worked example: evaluating word picture 1

1. **Name it:** a simile. It compares the rain to angry fists, using "like".
2. **See and feel:** I picture heavy, loud rain pounding the roof. It feels tense, as if the storm is attacking the house.
3. **Does it work?** Yes, it works well **because** it fits the wild, scary mood outside and makes the storm feel powerful.

Flip's tip: to evaluate, give your opinion **and a reason**: "It works well because…" or "It would be better if…".

Warm up: name word pictures 2, 3 and 4 in the story.

2 _____ **3** _____ **4** _____

Grown-ups: notice how the mood changes: word pictures 1 and 2 feel wild, but 3 and 4 feel safe and cosy inside. Ask, "Why might the author have put those side by side?"

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



Best word picture award

You need: two or three books from home, this sheet and a pencil.

1. Each choose a book and hunt for your favourite word picture.
2. Read it aloud. Say what kind it is and what it makes you see and feel.
3. Give it 1, 2 or 3 stars for how well it helps you picture the story, and say why.
4. Together, choose a winner for the Best Word Picture award!

Word picture	Kind	What it makes us see and feel	Stars

Grown-ups: the stars are for the author's word picture, not for your child. Disagreeing is great, as long as each of you gives a reason from the words.

3 Practise

A. Read the story. Find one of each kind of word picture and write it.

The beach

Ava ran down to the sea. The sand was a golden carpet under her feet. The waves raced each other to the shore. Above her, the gulls floated like scraps of white paper.

Simile _____

Metaphor _____

Personification _____

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B. Choose one word picture from "The beach". What does it make you see and feel?

C. One word picture doesn't fit the mood. Ring it, then rewrite it to fit.

> Leo crept down into the dark cellar. Cobwebs hung like grey curtains. The stairs creaked a warning under his feet. Above him, a cheerful light bulb giggled. Something moved in the shadows.

D. Which works better in a calm bedtime story? Tick it and explain.

- ☐ The baby slept as peacefully as a still pond.
- ☐ The baby snored like a roaring engine.

Challenge

Ava says, "More word pictures always make writing better. I'll put one in every sentence!" Do you agree? Why?

I can... Tick when you can.

- ☐ find similes, metaphors and personification in a story
- ☐ explain what a word picture makes the reader see and feel
- ☐ say how well a word picture works, and why