

How I
Teach... *with the*



Teacher's Notebook Episode Sheets

*Descriptive Writing Using Describers and Literary
Devices Middle School*

HIT #28

from Meaningful Composition 5-II

Broadcasts/Podcasts

LanguageArtsLadyBlog.com

From Donna

Introduction

Welcome to your Teacher's Notebook!

These sheets will provide you with tangible resources about each week's How I Teach.... episode that you can keep for yourself and often use with your students.

Here is what you need to know:

- 1) Each weekly set of sheets will be available at languageartsladyblog.com/howiteach with that week's episode, description, audio and video.
- 2) You can download the weekly sheets, print off anything to use in your classroom or with your students, and use in any non-commercial way you desire. (They are the intellectual property of Language Arts Lady.)
- 3) You can find more materials that coincide with that episode's topic at the end of each set of weekly sheets under the header Materials About This Topic to Purchase. These are mostly downloads that you can purchase inexpensively and use to teach skills you are learning from Language Arts Lady!
- 4) You may also desire to print off the entire Teacher's Notebook booklet (updated each month) so that you have all the sheets from the episodes to date all together (rather than a few sheets at a time). You can access the whole Teacher's Notebook booklet here: languageartsladyblog.com/teachersnotebook

I want so many good things for you and your students!

Love and hope,

Donna

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Weeks 1 & 2: Descriptive Writing

Fill-in-Blank Paragraphs About Two Rooms

Two Paragraph Descriptive Writing

In this project, you will learn about descriptive writing. However, you will not have a list of descriptive writing tools and be expected to input them in your paper.

In this project, you will learn about the various descriptive writing elements and then input them in your paper using a “fill-in-the-blank” method that is simple and doable. You will enjoy it and learn a lot in the process!

I. TOPIC OF ESSAY

All students will write a two paragraph descriptive paper describing two rooms in your home or school.

II. NUMBER OF PARAGRAPHS IN THE BODY OF YOUR ESSAY

All students will write **2 paragraphs** for the body (P’soB*).

***Note:** PoB stands for Paragraph of the Body (referring to a non-opening or non-closing paragraph) P’soB stands for Paragraphs of Body (more than one PoB).

III. SENTENCES PER PARAGRAPH

All students **will** write **7-10 sentences** per paragraph of descriptive material.

IV. OPENING PARAGRAPH

Students will **not** write an Opening Paragraph for this project.

V. CLOSING PARAGRAPH

Students will **not** write a Closing Paragraph for this project.

IV. WRITE ON/ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Students will learn the following descriptive writing skills

- A. **Adjectives That Tell What Kind**
- B. **Adverbs That Tell How**
- C. **Similes—Comparisons Using the Word *Like* or *As***
- D. **Metaphors—Comparisons That Do Not Use the Word *Like* or *As***
- E. **Personification—Phrases That Give Objects Human Characteristics**
- F. **Alliteration—Phrases That All Begin With the Same Sound**

Note: This Overview Box, which is provided at the beginning of each project, is here to give students (and teachers) an at-a-glance look at the entire composition assignment. Each step of each lesson is assigned and detailed throughout the week(s).

Lesson A. Write On: Learning About Descriptive Writing

- (1) If you have completed other MC books, you have probably already learned about descriptive writing.
- (2) Descriptive writing is writing that describes something to the reader.
- (3) Many types of writing include descriptive writing.
 - a. When you read a story, that story is filled with descriptive writing--what does the main character look like? The way the author tells you about the main character is descriptive writing.
 - b. When you read a story in which the author describes the barn that the animals live in, you are reading descriptive writing.
 - c. When you read an essay in which a person retells an event in his life, he often uses descriptive writing.
- (4) Descriptive writing uses many elements that you may have already learned about:
 - a. Adjectives--words that describe nouns
 - i. dark, slimy walls--what kind of walls?
 - ii. bright, sunny room--what kind of room?
 - iii. smiling, exuberant girl--what kind of girl?
 - b. Adverbs--words that describe verbs
 - i. fitfully slept--how did he sleep?
 - ii. drove dangerously--how did he drive?
 - iii. loudly proclaimed--how did he proclaim?
 - c. Fun writing techniques
 - i. Similes--comparison using *like* or *as*--She was happy as a lark.
 - ii. Metaphors--comparison without using *like* or *as*--He is a snake.
 - iii. Personification--giving human characteristics to a non-human--the grass waved in the breeze
 - iv. Alliteration--using the same sound at the beginning of a few words in a row--the lazy little lizard squirmed inside
- (5) Now--that is a lot of descriptive writing information for a young student all at one time!
- (6) Do not worry about memorizing all of that.
- (7) In this week's writing assignment, you will write with many of those without even realizing that you are doing it!

<> A. Fill in the blanks below to write descriptive sentences.

- Write with **adjectives**--words that tell *what kind*:

Sample:

The ferocious dog lunged at the boy.

1. The _____ boy jumped backwards.
2. When a _____ human hurts a dog, that creature does not forget.
3. The dog pulled at the _____ chain.
4. Dogs have _____ memories of those who hurt them.

- Write with **adverbs**--words that tell *how*:

Sample:

The dog menacingly pulled at his chain.

1. He _____ fought to get loose and charge.
2. Even if the person was _____ acting friendly to the dog, he would still attack if he had a bad memory of the person.
3. A dog does not _____ forget.
4. A dog will _____ attack any person who has hurt him.

- Write with **similes**--comparisons using the word *like* or *as*:

Sample:

The dog is like a lion when he is provoked.

1. He acts as peaceful as a _____ if humans are good to him.
2. A person should not be like a _____ towards a dog.
3. He should not be like a _____ filled with unforgiveness.
4. We should respond as a _____ when hurt.

- Write with **metaphors**--comparisons that do *not* use the word *like* or *as*:

Sample:

The dog is a monster when provoked.

1. A person should be a _____ to the dog.
2. God is a _____ to us.
3. We do not want to be a _____ to others.
4. We want to be a _____ when it comes to forgiveness.

- Write with **personification**--phrases that give objects human characteristics:

Sample:

The leaves of the trees clapped their hands.

1. The wind was _____.
2. The dog, like a human, _____
3. The snake _____
4. The bird _____

- Write with **alliteration**--phrases that all begin with the same sound:

Sample:

The cranky, clumsy camel was mad at his owners.

1. A _____ hurt the dog.
2. The weather was _____
3. The _____ liked the human since the human was nice to him.
4. The _____ treated the dog kindly.

Lesson B. Study Skills/Prewriting: Prepare Sentences for Descriptive Paragraphs

- (1) Now you will take what you have learned about descriptive writing and prepare two separate paragraphs of your own.
- (2) You will use all of the descriptive writing techniques that you have learned this week.

<> B-1. Read the Student Sample two-room Descriptive Essay provided.

Student Sample

One of my favorite rooms is the living room because it is big and comfy. This room has pretty colors, including brown and blue. This blue, brown, and bright room brings its owner joy. It is like a breath of fresh air to those who come into it. The sun in this room seems to welcome me. My favorite time to go to this room is in the evening. When I go into the living room, I like to dive on to the couch. Yes, this room is definitely the best.

Another favorite room of mine is my bedroom because it is warm and cozy. This room has pretty colors including green and blue. This welcoming, wonderful, and warm room brings its owner joy. It is like a haven to those who come into it. The bed in this room seems to call to me. My favorite time to go to this room is the night. When I go into the bedroom, I like to look at the fish. Yes, this room is definitely phenomenal.

Box for B-1

<> B-2. Fill in the blanks provided for two separate rooms following the steps provided:

- (1) Choose two rooms that you like (in your own home or another building or home).
- (2) Fill in the blanks provided for the first eight sentences for the first room you have chosen.
- (3) Then fill in the second set of sentences for the second room you have chosen.

• First room:

1. **Adjectives** (describers) in second line and third line: One of my favorite rooms is

_____ because it is _____
and _____. (Example: colorful and inviting)

2. **Adjectives** (describers--color names): This room has pretty colors, including _____

and _____. (Example: blue and white)

3. Fill in with three words that begin with the same letter--using **Alliteration**: This _____,

_____, and _____ room brings its owner joy.
(Example: cool, colorful, calm)

4. **Simile**: It is like a _____ to those who come into it.

(Example: drink of cool water)

5. **Personification**: The _____ in this room seems to _____.

(Example: windows... seem to smile)

6. **Details**: My favorite time to go to this room is _____.

(Example: at sunrise)

7. **Details**: When I go into the _____, I like to _____.

(Examples: closet... admire the organization)

8. **Adjective**: Yes, this room is definitely _____.

(Examples: fabulous)

• **Second room:**

1. **Adjectives** (describers) in second line and third line: One of my favorite rooms is _____
because it is _____ and _____.

2. **Adjectives** (describers--color names): This room has pretty colors, including _____
and _____.

3. Fill in with three words that begin with the same letter--using **Alliteration**: This _____,
_____, and _____ room brings its owner joy.

4. **Simile**: It is like a _____ to those who come into it.

5. **Personification**: The _____ in this room seem to _____.

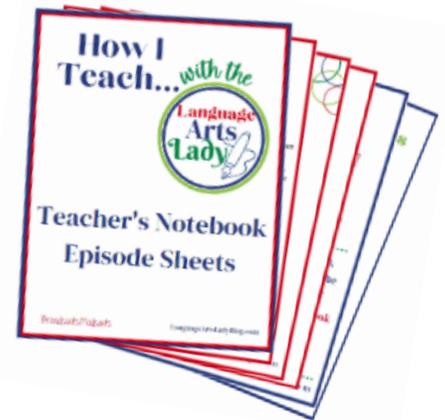
6. **Details**: My favorite time to go to this room is _____.

7. **Details**: When I go into the _____, I like to _____.

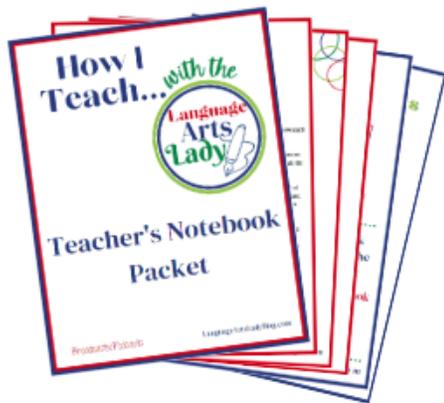
8. **Adjective**: Yes, this room is definitely _____.

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