

Setting the Scene

Activity Notes

In preparation

You will need photocopies of the Setting the scene worksheets and abstract.

Starting point

- Identify with the group what are the 5 senses – feel, see, taste, hear, smell
- Close eyes and imagine the scene
- Read through the abstract from Philip Pullman's 'Golden Compass' for inspiration

Activities

- Using the abstract from the Golden Compass, highlight in different colours where different senses have been described.
- In each box write some words that describe the scene using the different senses
- Each group to take on one of the senses and write down everything associated with it
- In groups, use individual white boards for sharing initial ideas
- Encourage the use of similes and metaphors, use adjectives with nouns, adverbs with verbs

Follow-on work

- Compare with a different photograph = calm v stormy
- Put together work into a paragraph
- Develop a character (thinking about how they move, speak, what they are dressed in) and put them into the setting.

National Curriculum link:

KS2: English Composition

Draft and write by: progressively building a varied and rich vocabulary and an increasing range of sentence structures, organising paragraphs around a theme, in narratives, creating settings, characters and plot

Setting the Scene

One morning there was a different smell in the air, and the ship was moving oddly, with a brisker rocking from side to side instead of the plunging and soaring. Lyra was on deck a minute after she woke up, gazing greedily at the land: such a strange sight, after all that water, for though they had only been at sea a few days, Lyra felt as if they'd been on the ocean for months. Directly ahead of the ship a mountain rose, green-flanked and snow-capped, and a little town and harbour lay below it: wooden houses with steep roofs, an oratory spire, cranes in the harbour, and clouds of gulls wheeling and crying. The smell was of fish, but mixed with it came land smells too: pine-resin and earth and something animal and musky, and something else that was cold and blank and wild: it might have been snow. It was the smell of the North.

Seals frisked around the ship, showing their clown-faces above the water before sinking back without a splash. The wind that lifted spray off the white-capped waves was monstrously cold, and searched out every gap in Lyra's wolfskin.

Taken from *Philip Pulman's The Golden Compass (His Dark Materials 1)* P32

Setting the scene

Using your FIVE senses, describe this scene.

