

Identifying the Features of Descriptive Scene Setting

Read through the examples of descriptive scene setting you have been given. Discuss with your partner which piece creates the strongest picture in your mind. Look at the excerpts from the writing examples below and see if you can find where they came from. Draw an arrow to match them up with the name of the feature being used. Give the feature a colour and see if you can find any more examples in any of the texts. If you can, underline them in your chosen colour!

Quotes from the Texts
The bare rock felt damp and slightly slippery underfoot...
...heavy service transporters growl and grumble along, trailing the oily odour of the past.
...finally tore past me in a blur of energy.
Next, I saw it – way off in the distance...
...made it seem as though time itself had stopped.
You sense something unnamed hanging in the air.
One is glassy and reflective, another is made from red brick.
...felt the sun burning my neck like a laser...
I stood and listened to the throttling motor sound battle the silence...

Persuasive Feature	Colour
Use figurative language to create effects, e.g. metaphors and similes.	
Describing what can be seen.	
Describing what can be smelt.	
Describing what can be heard.	
Describing what can be felt.	
Describe the atmosphere, e.g. to help the reader understand the scene setting.	



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Suggested Possible Answers

Quotes from the Texts	Persuasive Feature	Colour
The bare rock felt damp and slightly slippery underfoot	Use figurative language to create effects, e.g. metaphors and similes.	
...heavy service transporters growl and grumble along, trailing the oily odour of the past.	Describing what can be seen.	
...finally tore past me in a blur of energy.	Describing what can be smelt.	
Next, I saw it – way off in the distance...	Describing what can be heard.	
...made it seem as though time itself had stopped.	Describing what can be felt.	
You sense something unnamed hanging in the air.	Describe the atmosphere, e.g. to help the reader understand the scene setting.	
One is glassy and reflective, another is made from red brick.		
...felt the sun burning my neck like a laser...		
I stood and listened to the throttling motor sound battle the silence...		



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Read through the examples of descriptive scene setting you have been given. Talk to your partner about how well the scene is set in each one by considering how well you can imagine it. Look at the checklist of features below and decide on a colour to match each one. With your partner, reread each text looking for examples of the features on the list. Underline a few examples of each in the colour you have chosen and add a tick to the box each time you find an example.

Feature	Underline colour	Number of examples
Use figurative language to create effects, e.g. metaphors and similes.	Blue	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Describing what can be seen.		
Describing what can be smelt.		
Describing what can be heard.		
Describing what can be felt.		
Describe the atmosphere, e.g. to help the reader understand the scene setting.		



Identifying the Features of Descriptive Scene Setting

Read through the examples of descriptive scene setting you have been given. Look carefully for the features that help to set the scene effectively by creating a picture in your head and see if you can give them a name. List the features you have chosen in the blank grid below and decide on a colour to match each one. Underline a few examples of each feature you have identified in the colour you have chosen and add a tick to the box each time you find an example.

Feature	Underline colour	Number of examples
Use figurative language to create effects, e.g. metaphors and similes.	Blue	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓