Using Specific Vocabulary to Describe a Scene Using the Senses

It's important, when you're describing a scene or an object in the scene, to stop and think carefully about which word will create exactly the understanding in your reader that you are hoping for. Choosing precisely the right word is something to which professional authors dedicate a great deal of time. The right word can make an OK sentence into a wow one!

Consider these three sentences – each word has a similar meaning but creates an entirely different picture.

The painting in the corner of the room was incredibly dirty.

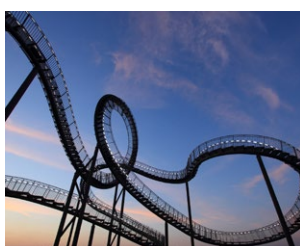**The painting in the corner of the room was incredibly dusty.**

The painting in the corner of the room was incredibly dingy.

In this activity, a thesaurus can be your best friend... but be careful - if you rely on a thesaurus alone, you're likely to end up with sentences that don't make sense.

A. Write three words underneath the sentence which could fill the gap. Consider each in turn then choose the one which best matches the picture.

	e.g. The trolleys were _____ together like pieces in a puzzle. rammed/stacked/interlocked
	The walkway twisted and turned like a _____ snake.
	The balloons _____ away from the sun.

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	In the spotlight, his face was _____ and shadowy.
	The tips _____ upwards like shoots of new growth.

B. How many different words can you think of which could go in the gap in this sentence?

	The wolf stands still in front of a _____ background. e.g. frosty

Which is the best?

_____

_____

C. Write just one sentence to describe this photograph. Take care with your choice of every single word.

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