

Interpreting Sensory Details Lesson Plan

Common Core Standards

- **RL.9-10.1** Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- **RL.9-10.2** Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.

Lesson Procedures

1. Read “All Summer in a Day.”
2. Hand out Sensory Details Chart.
3. Complete and Discuss.

Identifying and Interpreting Imagery and Sensory Details

Ray Bradbury uses sensory details for a purpose. It's up to you, the astute reader, to identify sensory details and analyze the author's purpose in using them.

Directions: Fill out the chart below. In the left column, cite specific examples from "All Summer in a Day" of sensory details/imagery. In the right column, explain the author's purpose in selecting that specific image.

Example of Sensory Detail	The Purpose of Sensory Detail
"The children pressed to each other like so many roses, so many weeds, intermixed, peering out for a look at the hidden sun."	Bradbury uses a simile, comparing the yearning of children to see the sun to roses and weeds doing the same. Perhaps the children are symbolic of mankind. There are some roses and there are some weeds. Although after the ensuing heinous act of locking Margot in the closet, maybe they're all weeds.

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"It had been raining for seven years; thousands upon thousands of days compounded and filled from one end to the other with rain, with the drum and gush of water, with the sweet crystal fall of showers and the concussion of storms so heavy they were tidal waves come over the islands. A thousand forests had been crushed under the rain and grown up a thousand times to be crushed again."	Bradbury uses repetition, hyperbole, and sound imagery to portray the absolute raininess of rain on Venus. Why would anyone ever want to live here?
"She was an old photograph dusted from an album, whitened away, and if she spoke at all her voice would be a ghost. Now she stood, separate, staring at the rain and the loud wet world beyond the huge glass."	Bradbury uses a metaphor comparing Margot to an old photograph from a dusted album, suggesting that she comes from a different era and is out of place in this world. The image highlights Margot's isolation.
"The silence was so immense and unbelievable that you felt your ears had been stuffed or you had lost your hearing altogether."	Bradbury contrasts the sound of constant rain to the sound of no rain with a sound image. Or is it a no sound image?
"They stood as if someone had driven them, like so many stakes, into the floor."	Bradbury uses a trite simile here, but to good effect. Nobody wants to own up to the consequences of their horrific actions.

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