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**Communications 11:**

**Descriptive Paragraph**

In the story, “All in a Summer Day”, Ray Bradbury’s descriptions are so well-detailed that the reader gets the sense of being there.He makes an alien landscape seem familiar and real.

**\* Your assignment is to write a descriptive paragraph about a setting of your choice.\*** This is your chance to write about absolutely ANY SETTING, whether it be fantasy or a real-life place.

The object of this exercise is to practice your writing skills of course, but also to practice writing descriptively. Therefore, you are not writing a narrative (story) that outlines a sequence of events. There will be **no plot** to your paragraph. Instead, you are simply describing all aspects of your setting.

Think about **the five senses**; when you’re in this setting, what do you observe with your senses of sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch? Describe all of these using vivid and interesting adjectives. AVOID USING ADJECTIVES SUCH AS “GOOD, NICE, UGLY, HOT, COLD” etc., because they are do not create a picture.

**Start by asking yourself the following questions:**

What do you see?

What does the ground feel like?

What colour is the sky?

What does the air smell like?

What colours do you see?

What do you hear?

How do you feel about being there?

What stands out to you?

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Block \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Rubric for Descriptive Writing**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Exceeding** | **Meeting** | **Approaching** | **Not there yet** |
| **Ideas** | \*“paints a picture” for the reader  \*well-focused on the topic  \*clear ideas are well-supported with interesting and vivid details | \*creates some clear images for the reader  \*focused on the topic  \*ideas are well-supported with details | \*sometimes strays from the topic  \*ideas are not well-developed  \*more details are needed | \*poorly focused on the topic  \*ideas are unclear  \*few details are given |
| **Sensory Detail** | \* Paragraph includes details that appeal to at least three of the five senses (taste, touch, sound, sight, smell).  \* Uses a broad and varied vocabulary | \* Includes details that appeal to fewer than three of the five senses.  \* Uses a variety of words and shows a good vocabulary | \* Includes details that appeal to only one of the five senses.  \* Uses a narrow range of words and demonstrates a limited vocabulary | \* Includes no details that appeal to one of the five senses.  \* Demonstrates a basic vocabulary, little variety in the words used |
| **Grammar**  **and**  **Spelling** | \*proper grammar  \*correct spelling  \*correct punctuation  \*correct capitalization | \*few errors of grammar and usage  \*mostly correct spelling, punctuation  and capitalization | \*errors in grammar, usage and spelling sometimes make understanding difficult  \*some errors in punctuation and capitalization | \*frequent errors in grammar, usage, spelling, capitalization and punctuation  make understanding difficult or impossible |