



Day Two: The Sixth Sense

1) Five senses, not one

Go through your manuscript, and identify any time you've described a place, a setting, a person – did you use all five senses? Or just what you saw?

Writing comes alive when we use all of our senses to describe something.

Don't believe me? Fill in the table below to describe abstract nouns:

	Smells	Feels	Sounds	Tastes	Looks
Gluttony					
Pride					
Wrath					
Vanity					
Lust					
Envy					
Greed					

2) Sensory perception

Sensuous writing – writing that evokes the senses – ensures that you capture all of your audience's attention. Some of us are more auditory, others visual, and others kinaesthetic in how we process our information. By including all the senses, everyone's preference is covered.

Try writing three descriptions based on the following scenarios, using ONE sense only. So, for example, only using what your character can hear. The next one, only what your character can smell. Try for a few lines of description.

- **First day back at school**

- **Back at the office**

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-
- Mid-winter
-
-
-
-
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3) Removing the filter

How did that go?

Next challenge: Have a look at your three descriptions. Did you use the words 'smell', 'hear', 'taste', 'see', or 'touch'? Sometimes, when we use these 'filter' words, we remove any deep point of view that we were hoping to create.

For example:

I hear the sound of kids playing outside. I hear an aeroplane flying overhead. It sounds like an ordinary day at home.

If we're in a character's point of view, there is no need to include 'I hear' - its addition is equal to author intrusion.

We could rewrite that passage as follows:

Kids play outside. One is T'Challa, the other, Captain America. An aeroplane soars overhead. An ordinary afternoon at home.

(Did you notice the application of what we learned in Day One's Strong Verbs?)

Rewrite those descriptions without those filter words. How does it change the closeness of the relationship between the reader and the character?

- First day back at school
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-
-
-
-

- Back at the office

- Mid-winter

4) Putting it all together



Describe the above scene using all the senses.

TO RECAP:

- Use ALL five senses in your description
- Remove 'filter' verbs such as 'see', 'watch', 'look', 'hear', 'feel', 'smell'

