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Imagery definition: Imagery is language that appeals to one or more of the five senses. What is Imagery? Imagery Literary DefinitionWhat does imagery is descriptive language used to appeal to a readers senses: touch, taste, smell, sound, and sight. By adding these details, it makes our writing more interesting. Here is an example of
how adding imagery enhances your writing. Original sentence: She drank water on a hot day. Added imagery: The cool, refreshing water quenched her thirst as the scorching sun radiated on her. Types of Imagery imagery imagery imagery appeals to one or more of our five senses. Lets take a closer look at each sense individually. Literary Imagery
Examples Visual: appeals to our sense of sight The crimson apple glistened in her hand. Auditory: appeals to our sense of sound the laundry room. Gustatory: appeals to our sense of taste The warm, salty broth soothed
her sore throat as she ate the soup. Tactile: appeals to our sense of touch Prickly cactus posed as an obstacle to the men as hiked. The Importance and Function of imagery Imagery is important for writers to use in order for their language to appeal to the reader. Without imagery, readers may not imagine the world or situation in the intended manner
the author had in mind. Lets take a look at how a description can clarify the meaning. She held an apple. Examples of Imagery in Literature Imagery is very important when writing fiction because the authors are required
to use their words in order for the reader to imagine their stories. Here are some examples of imagery being used in literature: To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Lee: Maycomb was an old town, but it was a tired old town when I first knew it. In rainy weather the streets turned to red slop; grass grew on the sidewalks, the courthouse sagged in the square
Somehow, it was hotter then; a black dog suffered on a summers day; bony mules hitched to Hoover carts flicked flies in the sweltering shade of the live oaks on the square. Mens stiff collars wilted by nine in the morning. Ladies bathed before noon, after their three-o clock naps, and by nightfall were like stiff teacakes with frostings of sweat and
sweet talcum. (6)In this example, Lee uses various forms of imagery, including visual and tactile. Fahrenheit 451, Ray Bradbury: It was a pleasure to burn. It was a special pleasure to burn. It was a special pleasure to burn the world, the blood
pounded in his head, and his hands were the hands of some amazing conductor playing all the symphonies of blazing and burning to bring down the tatter and charcoal ruins of history. With his symbolic helmet numbered 451 on his stolid head, and his eyes all orange flame with the thought of what came next, he flicked the igniter and the house
jumped up in a gorging fire that burned the evening sky red and yellow and black. (3)In this example, Bradbury utilizes tactile imagery. Both of these renowned authors employed imagery English Definition: To re-cap, imagery
is descriptive language that appeals to one or more of our senses. Imagery allows the writer to use words to paint an image for readers as they enter the worlds created through words on a page. What is imagery? Heres a quick and simple definition: Imagery, in any sort of writing, refers to descriptive language that engages the human senses. For
instance, the following lines from Robert Frost's poem "After Apple-Picking" contain imagery that engages the senses of touch, movement, and hearing: "I feel the ladder sway as the boughs bend. / And I keep hearing from the cellar bin / The rumbling sound / Of load on load of apples coming in." Some additional key details about imagery: Though
imagery contains the word "image," it does not only refer to descriptive language that appeals to the sense of sight. Imagery includes language that appeals to the human senses, including sight, hearing, taste, touch, and smell. While imagery can and often does benefit from the use of figurative language such as metaphors and similes, imagery
can also be written without using any figurative language at all. Imagery Pronunciation Here's how to pronounce imagery (sight) Auditory imagery (hearing) Olfactory imagery (smell) Gustatory imagery (taste) Tactile imagery
(touch) Some people may also argue that imagery can be kinesthetic (related to movement) or organic (related to sensations within the body). Writers may focus descriptions in a particular passage on primarily one type of imagery, or multiple types of imagery and Figurative Language Many people (and websites) confuse the relationship
between imagery and figurative language. Usually this confusion involves one of two things: Describing imagery as a type of figurative language to create descriptions that engage the physical senses. Both are wrong. A Quick Definition of Figurative Language Figurative language is language that
creates a meaning that is different from the literal interpretation of the words. For instance, the phrase "you are a beam of light from the sun, but rather is creating an association between "you" and "sunshine" to say that you make the speaker feel
warm and happy and also give the speaker life in the same way sunshine does. Imagery can be Literal or Figurative language to create descriptions for one simple reason: imagery can be totally literal. Take the lines from Robert Frost's "After-Apple Picking:"
I feel the ladder sway as the boughs bend. And I keep hearing from the cellar bin The rumbling sound Of load on load of apples coming in. These lines contain powerful imagery: you can feel the swaying ladder, see the bending boughs, and hear the rumbling of the apples going into the cellar bin. But it is also completely literal: every word means
exactly what it typically means. So this imagery involves no figurative language at all. Now, that doesn't mean imagery can't use figurative language. It can! You could write, for instance, "The apples rumbled into the cellar bin like a stampede of buffalo," using a simile to create a non-literal comparison that emphasizes just how loudly those apples
were rumbling. To sum up, then: imagery can involve the use of figurative language, but it doesn't have to. Imagery is found in all sorts of writing, from fiction to non-fiction to poetry to drama to essays. Example of Imagery in Romeo and Juliet In Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, Romeo describes his first sight of Juliet with rich
visual imagery: O, she doth teach the torches to burn bright! Her beauty hangs upon the cheek of night, Like a rich jewel in an Ethiop's ear This imagery does involve the use of figurative language, as Romeo describes Juliet's beauty in the nighttime by using a simile that compares her to a jewel shining against dark skin. Example of Imagery in
"Birches" In the early lines of his poem "Birches," Robert Frost describes the birches that give his poem it's title. The language he uses in the description involves imagery of sight, movement, and sound. When I see birches bend to left and right Across the lines of straighter darker trees, I like to think some boy's been swinging them. But swinging
doesn't bend them down to stay As ice-storms do. Often you must have seen them Loaded with ice a sunny winter morning After a rain. They click upon themselves As the breeze rises, and turn many-colored As the stir cracks and crazes their enamel. Example of Imagery in The Road The novelist Cormac McCarthy is known, among other things, for
his powerful imagery. In this passage from his novel The Road, note how he uses imagery to describe the fire on the distant ridge, the feel of the air, and even the feeling inside that the man experiences. A forest fire was making its way along the tinderbox ridges above them, flaring and shimmering against the overcast like the northern lights. Cold as
it was he stood there a long time. The color of it moved something in him long forgotten. Example of Imagery in Moby-Dick The passage ago appears at the very end of Herman Melville's Moby-Dick and describes the ocean in the moments after a destroyed ship has sunk into it. Notice how Melville combines visual, auditory, and kinesthetic imagery
("small fowls flew"; "white surf beat"), and how the imagery allows you to almost feel the vortex created by the sinking ship and then the silence left behind when it closes. Now small fowls flew screaming over the yet yawning gulf; a sullen white surf beat against its steep sides; then all collapsed, and the great shroud of the sea rolled on as it rolled
five thousand years ago. Example of Imagery in Song of Solomon In this passage from Song of Solomon, Toni Morrison uses visual imagery to capture the color and motion of the table cloth as it settles over the table. She also uses figurative language ("like a lighthouse keeper...") to describe the way that Ruth in the passage looks at the water stain one
the table. The figurative language doesn't just describe the color or sound or smell of the scene, it captures the obsessive way that Ruth glances at the water stain, and the way that seeing it gives her a sense of ease. Here the figurative language doesn't just describe the color or sound or smell of the scene, it captures the obsessive way that seeing it gives her a sense of ease. Here the figurative language doesn't just describe the color or sound or smell of the scene, it captures the obsessive way that seeing it gives her a sense of ease.
table, she would look once more at the large water mark. She never set the table or passed through the dining room without looking at it. Like a lighthouse keeper drawn to his window to gaze once again at the sea, or a prisoner automatically searching out the sun as he steps into the yard for his hour of exercise, Ruth looked for the water mark
several times during the day. Example of Imagery in Perfume: The Story of a Murderer The main character of Patrick Suskind's novel Perfume: The Story of a Murderer has a supernaturally powerful sense of smell. In this passage, which describes the nature of 18th century citiestheir grittinesses, which describes the smells of an 18th century citiestheir grittinesses, which describes the smells of an 18th century citiestheir grittinesses, which describes the smells of an 18th century citiestheir grittinesses, which describes the smells of an 18th century citiestheir grittinesses, and the smells of an 18th century citiestheir grittinesses, which describes the smells of an 18th century citiestheir grittinesses, and the smells of an 18th century citiestheir grittinesses, and the smells of an 18th century citiestheir grittinesses, and the smells of an 18th century citiestheir grittinesses, and the smells of an 18th century citiestheir grittinesses, and the smells of an 18th century citiestheir grittinesses, and the smells of an 18th century citiestheir grittinesses, and the smells of an 18th century citiestheir grittinesses, and the smells of an 18th century cities the smell cities the sme
and griminessthrough the smell of their refuse, and how in such a world perfume might be not just a luxury but a necessity. Further, he makes readers aware of a world of smell of which they normally are only slightly aware, and how a super-sensitive sense of smell could both be powerful but also be overwhelmingly unpleasant. And finally, through
smell the narrator is able to describe just how gross humans can be, how they are in some ways just another kind of animal, and how their bodies are always failing or dying. Through descriptions of smell, in other words, the novel also describes an overlooked aspect of the human condition. In the period of which we speak, there reigned in the cities a
stench barely conceivable to us modern men and women. The streets stank of manure, the courtyards of urine, the bedrooms of greasy sheets, damp featherbeds, and the pungently sweet aroma of chamber
pots. The stench of sulfur rose from the chimneys, the stench of congealed blood. People stank of sweat and unwashed clothes; from their bedlies that of onions, and from their bedlies that of onions, and from their bedlies, if they were no longer very young
came the stench of rancid cheese and sour milk and tumorous disease. Why Do Writers Use Imagery for a wide variety of reasons: It engages readers: Imagery allows readers to see and feel what's going on in a story. It fully engages the reader's imagination, and brings
them into the story. It's interesting: Writing without imagery would be dry and dull, while writing with imagery can be vibrant and gripping. It can set the scene and communicate character: The description of how a person or place as any explanation can. Imagery is not
just "window dressing," it is the necessary sensory detail that allows a reader to understand the world and people being described, from their fundamental traits to their mood. It can be symbolic: Imagery can both described, from their fundamental traits to their mood. It can be symbolic meanings that deepen the impact of the text. Such symbolics meanings that deepen the impact of the text. Such symbolics meanings that deepen the impact of the text.
occurring in moments of sadness) to symbolism that is even deeper or more complex, such as the way that Moby-Dick layers multiple meanings through his descriptions of the whiteness of the whater, or felt your skin tingle while
reading about the chill of a frigid winter night? Those reactions are the result of imagery? Imagery enhances writing by creating a physical response in the reader through sensory details. Language can elicit a psychological or intellectual
reaction in a reader, and imagery is just one more tool a writer has to connect with their audience through sensation and emotion. Take the following passage from a 1966 article by Joan Didion titled Some Dreamers of the Golden Dream. In this passage, Didion uses imagery to talk about the regions wind: . . . a harsher California, haunted by the
Mohave just beyond the mountains, devastated by the hot dry Santa Ana wind that comes down through the passes at 100 miles an hour and whines through the Eucalyptus windbreaks and works on the nerves. A passage with less imagery might depict the winds as being hot and dry, but Didions rich description goes farther, creating for the reader a
feeling of roughness (appealing to touch) in the winds. Imagery in writingWriters use imagery to generate a physical or emotional response in the reader. One way to do this is through evocative adjectives. For example, using shimmering or blinding instead of bright, or piercing instead of bright instea
those are the words that move your narrative forward. Poignant and direct verbs will bring your reader along for the ride. Another way to create imagery is through amplification. Amplification is a literary device that exaggerates or emphasizes a certain point. For example, you can tell your reader that you had a long drive home. Or, using
amplification, you can tell them the road before you stretched through space and time, jutting into a seemingly endless succession of nights and days that blurred together and deposited you collapsed on your doorstep. That might be a little dramatic, but amplification is all about drama. It also creates the feeling of weariness (which is another appeal
to tactile imagery if you imagine the weight of your eyelids). However, too much imagery can lessen the effectiveness of your writing. If every might is the deepest, blackest night the narrator has ever seen; if every might is the deepest, blackest night the narrator has ever seen; if every might is the deepest, blackest night the narrator has ever seen; if every might is the deepest, blackest night the narrator has ever seen; if every might is the deepest, blackest night the narrator has ever seen; if every might is the deepest, blackest night the narrator has ever seen; if every might is the deepest, blackest night the narrator has ever seen; if every might is the deepest, blackest night the narrator has ever seen; if every might is the deepest, blackest night the narrator has ever seen.
drama of it all; if everything is special, then nothing is special.
At Black River effectively send the readers imagination to the riverbank in a slim three lines: All dayits dark, slick bronze soaksin a mossy place . . . What are the types of imagery? Although not everyone can experience all these senses themselves, writing that appeals to the senses can still spark their imagination: Visual imagery Visual imagery is
imagery that you can see in your minds eye. It is the colors, brightness, shape, and movement of something. Visual imagery is the most common form of imagery within the the whir of machinery or the rush of a
river. Any imagery that causes the reader to hear the scene is auditory imagery. Tactile imagery of touch. The roughness of a sweater, the coolness of fresh sheets, and the softness of a kittens fur are all examples of tactile imagery that concerns
tastethink about books with recipes, grocery shopping scenes, and dinner describes the smell of freshly brewed coffee in the morning and the reader perks up, thats an effective use of olfactory imagery. Alternatively, a writer can convey a sense of discomfort to
the reader by describing the scent of rot or decay. Whats the difference between literal and figurative imagery? There are two types of imagery: literal and figurative. Literal imagery appeals to the reader sprior knowledge of something, describing it so precisely that the reader cannot help but feel (or see, hear, taste, or smell) the thing being
described. For example, look at this passage from Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro: There was bright sunshine, but it must have been raining earlier that day because I can remember how the sun was glinting on the muddy surface of the grass. The language is straightforward (literal), but it is descriptive in a way that gives the reader a very clear
image of the scene. The reader can see the sheen of a damp sunny day. Figurative imagery relies on language like simile and metaphors to evoke the senses. In this passage from Winter in Sokcho by Elisa Shua Dusapin, the narrator usespersonification in her description of lunch to generate a tactile effect: I started to eat, chewing faster and faster,
swirling the makgeolli in my bowl with the tips of my chopsticks. Gulping down long drafts. The dense whiteness of the alcohol cutting my throat as it slipped down toward my stomach. The reader can almost feel the sharpness of the alcohol through the authors use of figurative imagery. Examples of imagery You may shoot me with your words, You may
cut me with your eyes, You may kill me with your hatefulness, But still, like air, Ill rise. Maya Angelou, Still I Rise Not that I had any great feast in mind: I would be stir frying thin slices of beef, onions, green peppers, and bean sprouts with a little salt, pepper, soy sauce, and a splash of beera recipe from my single days. The rice was done, the miso soup
soap until the odor was gone from his pores. John Steinbeck, East of EdenImagery engages the readers senses to create a mental imagery used in writing? Imagery engages the readers senses to create a mental imagery is a literary device that evokes the five senses to create a mental imagery engages the readers senses to create a mental imagery engagery e
response in the reader. What are the different kinds of imagery can be literal or figurative imagery can be literal or figurative imagery relies on figurative imagery can be literal or figurative. Literal imagery relies on figurative imagery relies on figurative imagery relies on figurative. Literal imagery relies on figurative imagery relies on figurative imagery relies on figurative.
the last sentence of the classic novel, narrator Nick Carraway tells the readers: Sowe beat on, boats against the current, born ceaselessly back into the past. Fitzgerald employs visual imagery through the use of metaphor, comparing people to boats. Like vessels in the water, people try to move forward in their lives, but the efforts and optimistic dreams against the current, born ceaselessly back into the past. Fitzgerald employs visual imagery through the use of metaphor, comparing people to boats.
of the future are ultimately futile because the powerful influence of the past push back harder, like a strong current. Nalo Hopkinson uses visual imagery to describe thesetting by saying: Imagine a cartwheel half-mired in muddy water, its hub just clearing the surface. The
spokes are the satellite citiesthat form Metropolitan Toronto: Etobicoke and York to the west; North York in the north; Scarborough and East York to the east. The Toronto city core is the hub. Hopkinson evokes the image of a cartwheel to allow readers to visualize the settings geographic layout. This imagery also connects to an older era of farming to
set up the broader context of a dystopian future where Hopkinsons characters have returned to an agrarian lifestyle to survive.3. Sandra Cisneros, Puro AmorIn this short story, Cisneros uses tactile imagery to illustrate the close bond between the character Missus and her pets. While Missus sleeps, the dogs are:[] warming her back, radiating heat
like meteorites[]This simile compares the dogs warmth against Missuss back to the heat of meteorites. Thishyperbolicdescription also expands on the dogs warmth by lending an otherworldly quality to it. To Missus, the dogs warmth by lending an otherworldly quality to it. To Missus, the dogs warmth against Missuss back to the heat of meteorites. Thishyperbolicdescription also expands on the dogs warmth by lending an otherworldly quality to it. To Missus, the dogs warmth against Missuss back to the heat of meteorites.
the:green-eyed monsterwhich doth mockthe meat it feeds upon. This personification of jealousy makes the audience can more easily understand how this monster of jealousy overcame his feelings of tenderness for his wife
Desdemona. Describing the monster as green-eyed does double duty. It allows the audience to imagine the monster more vividly, and the color green, commonly used to depict jealousy, helps reinforce the plays central theme. 5. Helen Macdonald, H Is For HawkIn this memoir about her fathers death, Macdonald describes a hawk she is taming with
olfactory imagery: The hawk had filled the house with wildnessas a bowl of lilies fills the house with scent. This simile allows readers to understand how the hawks primitiveness overwhelm her homes civility. 6.
Cecilia Ekbck, Wolf WinterIn Part One of this historic novel about Swedish Lapland, teenage Frederika uses auditory imagery when she remembers going fishing with her father rows. The word waterfalls also
evokes a visual image of the water sliding off his oars. 7. Mary Oliver, Mushrooms sprout in the wild:red and yellow skullspummeling upwardthrough leaves to skulls, producing a strong image of the mushrooms round, smooth shape. This is also a strong image of the mushroom caps to skulls, producing a strong image of the mushroom sprout in the wild:red and yellow skullspummeling upwardthrough leaves to skulls, producing a strong image of the mushroom sprout in the wild:red and yellow skullspummeling upwardthrough leaves to skulls, producing a strong image of the mushroom sprout in the wild:red and yellow skullspummeling upwardthrough leaves to skulls, producing a strong image of the mushroom sprout in the wild:red and yellow skullspummeling upwardthrough leaves to skulls, producing a strong image of the mushroom sprout in the wild:red and yellow skullspummeling upwardthrough leaves to skullspummeling upwardthrough l
symbolic warning of how dangerous wild mushrooms can be; since many mushrooms are poisonous, sampling them can be fatal. Although there are several types of imagery, they all generally serve a similar function. To better understand the function of imagery in poetry and literature and how it can be achieved through various other literary devices
lets take a look at the imagery definition. Imagery definition. Imagery is a literary device used in poetry, novels, and other writing that uses vivid description that appeals to a readers senses to create an image or idea in their head. Through language, imagery does not only paint a picture, but aims to portray the sensational experience within text. Imagery
can improve a readers experience of the text by immersing them more deeply by appealing to their senses. Imagery in writing can aim at a readers sense of taste, smell, touch, hearing, or sight through vivid descriptions. Imagery in writing can aim at a readers sense of taste, smell, touch, hearing, or sight through vivid descriptions.
settingCreating empathy for a characters experienceImmersing a character into a situationThere are seven different types of imagery that writers use. All are in one way or another dependent on the readers senses. Lets take a look at the types of imagery that are most commonly used in literature. What is imagery in poetry 1. Visual Imagery Visual
imagery is most likely what people think of when they hear the term imagery. It uses qualities of how something looks visually to best create an image in the readers head. These visual qualities can be shapes, color, light, shadow, or even patterns. It is one of the most common types of imagery as it allows readers to better describe the world and
characters of a novel or poem. Visual imagery is often used in screenplays when first introduce characters and places in the Pulp Fiction screenplay. Visual imagery is often achieved through the use of other literary devices like metaphors and similes. To say
woman looks like Helen of Troy is both imagery, a simile, and an allusion. It can be frequently found in screenplays when a character is first introduced. Our next type of imagery is auditory experience through text can be difficult. But it can also be necessary for
a story or plot. For example, the sound of war can be necessary to immerse the reader into a war novel. This may be used to describe gunfire, explosions, screams, and helicopters. Lets take a look at William Shakespeares Macbeth, auditory imagery is used for a physical action that affects the actions of the characters. PORTER: Heres a knocking
indeed! If a man were porter ofhell-gate, he should have old turning the key. KnockKnock, knock! Whos there, in the other devils name? As you can see
from this example, writers will also enlist the use of onomatopoeia to create the actual sound of an action or effect through text. This can make reading a story more experiential. What does imagery mean? 3. Gustatory Imagery Gustatory imagery that aims at a readers sense of taste. This would most commonly be used to describe
food as a character eats it. A great example of this can be found in The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis uses gustatory imagery to describe its taste. The Queen let another drop fall from her bottle on to the snow, and instantly there appeared a round box, tied with green
silk ribbon, which, when opened, turned out to contain several pounds of the best Turkish Delight. Each piece was sweet and light to the very centre and Edmund had never tasted anything more delicious. He was quite warm now, and very comfortable. Describing food as sweet, salty, or even spicy can immerse a reader further into a characters
simple action of eating. Gustatory imagery can be incredibly effective when describing unpleasant tastes as well. Whats imagery used for?4. Olfactory imagery is a great way to better describe both what a character is experiencing as well as the world
of the novel, poem, or other writing. The smell of fresh rain, smoke from a fire, or gasoline can be described through olfactory imagery. A great example of this can be found in the novel The Dead Path by Stephen M. Irwin. Note the comparisons Irwin used to create the olfactory imagery and paint a picture of the smell. But a smell shivered him
awake.It was a scent as old as the world. It was the muscular rot of mushrooms. It was the muscular rot of m
close.Olfactory imagery can also be used in a screenplay as a plot point and to suggest to actors what they are reacting. What does imagery mean? 5. Tactile Imagery can be used to describe how something feels such a
texture, temperature, wetness, dryness, etc.In Albert Camus novel The Stranger, Camus uses this type of imagery to describe the heat of the sun pressing down on a man at the beach. Seeing the rows of cypress trees leading up to the hills next to the sky, and the houses standing out here and there against that red and green earth, I was able to
understand Maman better. Evenings in that part of the country must have been a kind of sad relief. But today, with the sun bearing down, making the whole landscape shimmer with heat, it was inhuman and oppressive. As you can see from this example, this can be tremendously effective when characters are undergoing some type of turmoil. Tactile
imagery appeals to a readers sense of touch and allows them to better empathize with a character. Kinesthetic imagery is used to describe the sensory experience of motion. Speed, slowness, falling, or even fighting can be written with kinesthetic imagery is used to describe the sensory experience of motion. Speed, slowness, falling, or even fighting can be written with kinesthetic imagery is used to describe the sensory experience of motion.
action films. How else can you write an epic fight scene other than by using kinesthetic imagery to paint the picture? In our breakdown of one of the many epic fight scenes in John Wick, we take a look at how kinesthetic imagery can tell the story of action on the page. Kinesthetic imagery is also great when writing about topics like sports, driving, and
other intense action. Organic imagery meaning 7. Organic imagery meaning 7. Organic imagery meaning 7. Organic imagery appeals to the most primitive sensations in the human experience such as hunger, fatigue, fear and even emotion. It can be quite difficult to describe the emotions of a sorrowful character or desperate character. But
organic imagery aims to do just that. When done effectively, organic imagery can be the best tool to move a reader to tears of either joy or sadness. Imagery is just one of many literary devices and types of figurative language, including metaphor, juxtaposition, and symbolism. If you're a writer and want to develop your craft fully, do yourself a favor
and continue this exploration. The next article on literary devices is a gateway to many of these tools that help add substance and style to any type of written work. Up Next: Literary Devices Index Whether your favorite
characters. Authors who achieve this can make it look seamless, but it usually doesnt just happen that way; to really grab readers and make them feel like part of the story, youll need to be precise with your word choice and learn to master imagery. Great imagery is what gives readers a sensory experience they wont soon forget. Read on for more on
its definition and 5 different types, as well as examples from literature. Imagery is a literary device that uses figurative language to describe objects, actions, and ideas in a way that appeals to the physical senses and helps readers to picture the scene as if it were real. The term imagery can be a bit misleading. Though figurative language can be used
to describe the visual appearance of something, imagery also refers to vivid descriptions of sounds, tastes, physical sensations, and smells. The 5 different types of imagery is the most obvious and typical form of imagery.
When youre writing a scene, whether youre describing a person, place, or thing, its best to show instead of tell. That means using vivid imagery and sensory details to make your reader see the scene for themselves. Example: The moonlight shone over the lake and reflected in her big, dark eyes. Olfactory imagery appeals to our sense of smell. Dont
underestimate what the power of a good aromatic description can doscience tells us that smell is one of our strongest links to the past. So if youre writing a scene about food, for example, be sure to use descriptive words that will have your readers mouths watering. Example: The sweet aroma of the freshly baked chocolate chip cookies wafted from
the kitchen to the living room, causing Gregs stomach to rumble. Gustatory imagery describes taste without smell after all?) and should appeal to readers tastebuds. Example: As he bit into the juicy burger, a variety of spices danced upon his tongue. Tactile imagery appeals to our sense
of touch. From the softness of cashmere to the biting cold of a December night, good tactile imagery helps readers to feel that they are part of the scene, and makes the characters experiences more relatable. Example: A gust of cold wind pierced her body. Auditory imagery describes sounds, from shrill cries to whispering winds. Even the subtlest of
sounds can help set the scene and place readers right in the middle of the action. Example: She awoke to the chirping of birds and the soft whisper of a breeze as it passed through the tree outside her window. Below are several examples of imagery from famous works of literature. It commenced rainin one day an did not stop for two months. We
went thru ever different kind of rain they is, cepn maybe sleet or hail. It was little stingin rain sometimes, an big ole fat rain at others. It came sidewise an straight down an sometime even seem to come up from the novel-turned-film by Winston Groom, Forrest describes the sting of the rainand all the different ways it
came down on them in Vietnam. In the hard-packed dirt of the midway, after the glaring lights are out and the people have gone to bed, you will find a veritable treasure of popcorn fragments, frozen custard dribblings, candied apples abandoned by tired children, sugar fluff crystals, salted almonds, popsicles, partially gnawed ice cream cones and
wooden sticks of lollipops. In this excerpt from Charlottes Web, the narrator paints a vivid picture of the senses, from salted almonds to the glaring lights. It was a rimy morning, and very damp. I had seen the damp lying on the bare hedges and spare
grass, On every rail and gate, wet lay clammy; and the marsh-mist was so thick, that the wooden finger on the post direction which they never came therewas invisible to me until I was quite close under it. This description from Great Expectations of a damp morning near a marsh appeals to the
 sense of sight and feel, allowing readers to feel like theyre arriving on the scene themselves. If you want to incorporate more imagery in your writing, you might try using the right selection of adjectives, figurative language, and even diction. Although figurative language and literary devices like metaphors or similes are often used to create imagery,
theyre not required. In fact, overwriting and piling on adjective after adjective after adjective is often a trademark of amateur writers; try to say as much as you can in fewer words. The goal of imagery is to make readers feel like theyre seeing the scene for themselves, and not being toldso dont forget that you can appeal to all of the senses, not just sight. What are
some of your favorite examples of imagery from literature? Share your thoughts in the comments below! As a blog writer for TCK Publishing, Kaelyn loves crafting fun and helpful content for writers, readers, and creative minds alike. She has a degree in International Affairs with a minor in Italian Studies, but her true passion has always been writing
Working remotely allows her to do even more of the things she loves, like traveling, cooking, and spending time with her family. By Raymond Malewitz, Oregon State University Associate Professor of American Literature 24 April 2019 As human beings, we understand the world through our senseswhat we see, what we smell, what we
taste, and what we touch. To represent this process in their literary works, storytellers and poets use vivid language is called imagery. Let me give you one example. In Kate Chopins short story of an Hour, a woman named Mrs. Mallard is told that her husband has just been killed in a
railroad accident. After retreating to her room to grieve, she looks out her window. Chopin writes: "She could see in the open square before her house the tops of trees that were all aquiver with new spring life. The delicious breath of rain was in the air. In the street below a peddler was crying his wares. The notes of a distant song which someone
was singing reached her faintly, and countless sparrows were twittering in the eaves." In this passage, Chopins imagery appeals to a variety of senses: the sight of quivering trees, the smell of rain, the sound of twittering sparrows, and so on. As this passage suggests, imagery often does more than simply present sensory impressions of the world: it
also conveys tone, or the attitude of a character or narrator towards a given subject. By concentrating on what Mrs. Mallard experiences at this moment-- quivering trees, singing birds, and smells of rain Chopins narrator allows readers to understand the complex way in which Mrs. Mallard views her husbands deathas both a tragic event and a rebirth
of sorts in which the spring imagery conveys the freedom she imagines beyond the confines of her marriage. Instead of telling us these thoughts through exposition or explanation, Chopins narrator shows us the worldview of her character and encourages us to interpret what this imagery means. This difference is crucial for students interested using
the term imagery in their literary essays. Rather than writing that imagery is good or bad, vivid or dull, students should instead try to connect imagery?" Oregon State Guide to English Literary Terms, 24 Apr. 2019, Oregon State
University, . Accessed [insert date]. Further Resources for Teachers H.D.'s short poem "Oread" and Leslie Marmon Silko's short story "The Man to Send Rain Clouds" offer students two different good opportunities to practice linking imagery to the worldview of certain speaker. Writing Prompt #1: In H.D.'s poem, a forest nymph sees the waves of the
sea as "pointed pines," which is a very strange metaphor. How does this imagery provide insight into ways that the creature experiences the world? Writing Prompt #2: In Silko's story (which was published under the name Leslie Chapman), the fourth section drops into what might be called a "close" third-person aligned with the priest's perspective
on the ritual he is performs. But instead of providing his actual thoughts, Silko chooses to present how he sees the world through detailed imagery. What does this imagery convey about his thoughts on the ritual and why might Silko has chosen this oblique or indirect style to convey it? Interested in more video lessons? View the full series: The
Oregon State Guide to English Literary Terms Imagery refers to the use of vivid and descriptive language to create mental images and sensory experiences in the minds of readers or listeners. It is a literary device that appeals to the senses and helps to enhance the overall understanding and enjoyment of a text. What is Imagery Definition and
Examples Imagery is commonly used in various forms of literature, including poetry, fiction, and even non-fiction, to evoke emotions, convey meaning, and bring the written word to life. The power of imagery lies in its ability to engage multiple senses simultaneously, allowing readers to experience the text on a more profound and personal level. What
is Imagery Definition and Examples By using detailed and evocative descriptions, writers can paint a picture in the readers mind, stimulating their imagination and creating a more immersive reading experience. Visual imagery is perhaps the most prevalent form of imagery, as it appeals to the sense of sight. It involves the use of language that vividly
describes objects, scenes, or people, enabling readers to see the images being depicted in their minds eye. What is Imagery Definition and Examples This
sentence uses visual imagery to paint a picture of a serene and picture of a serene and experience its beauty. Also Read- However, imagery is not limited to visual descriptions alone. It can also engage other senses, such as hearing, taste, touch, and smell. What is Imagery Definition and Examples By
incorporating auditory imagery, writers can evoke sounds and noises in the readers imagination. For instance, The leaves rustled in the gentle breeze, whispering secrets to one another. This sentence appeals to the sense of touch
enabling readers to experience textures, temperatures, and sensations through words. What is Imagery Definition and Examples For example, The soft, velvety petals of the rose brushed against her fingertips as she reached out to touch it. In this sentence, the reader can imagine the smoothness and delicate nature of the rose petals. Gustatory
imagery relates to the sense of taste and can be used to describe flavors and tastes in a text. For instance, The warm, buttery croissant melted in her mouth, releasing a burst of rich, flaky goodness. What is Imagery Definition and Examples This sentence uses gustatory imagery to evoke the taste and texture of a croissant, making it more palpable
and enticing to the reader. Lastly, olfactory imagery appeals to the sense of smell and can transport readers to different environments or evoke specific emotions. For example, The air was heavy with the scent of blooming jasmine, filling the garden with its intoxicating fragrance. This sentence utilizes olfactory imagery to evoke the smell of jasmine
creating a sensory experience that immerses the reader in the scene. Overall, imagery serves multiple purposes in literature. It enhances the readers understanding of the text by providing vivid details and creating a sensory experience. What is Imagery Definition and Examples It also helps to set the mood and atmosphere of a piece of writing,
evoking specific emotions and creating a deeper connection between the reader and the text. What is Imagery Definition and Examples By engaging the senses, imagery allows writers to convey complex ideas and experiences in a more accessible and impactful manner. Examples Of Imagery There are the Some examples-Visual Imagery: The moon
hung low in the night sky, casting a pale silver glow over the sleepy town. The emerald green meadow stretched as far as the eye could see, dotted with vibrant wildflowers. Auditory Imagery: The waves crashed against the rocky shore, their relentless roar filling the air. The concert hall was alive with the melodic symphony, each note dancing through
the air. Tactile Imagery: The soft, warm sand slipped through her fingers as she walked along the sun-kissed beach. The rough bark of the freshly squeezed orange juice awakened her taste buds. With every bite, the decadent
chocolate cake melted in her mouth, leaving a sweet, velvety richness.Olfactory Imagery: The fragrant aroma of freshly baked bread wafted through the bakery, enticing passersby. The crisp, autumn air carried the earthy scent of fallen leaves, hinting at the changing season. Conclusion Imagery is a powerful literary device that engages the senses and
creates vivid mental images and sensory experiences for the reader. What is Imagery Definition and Examples By using descriptive language, writers can appeal to the senses of sight, hearing, touch, taste, and smell, bringing their words to life and enhancing the overall understanding and enjoyment of the text. What is Imagery Definition and
 Examples Imagery not only allows readers to visualize the scenes and characters in a story but also enables them to experience to literature, making it more immersive and memorable.FAQ.Q. How does imagery enhance writing? Ans
Imagery enhances writing by creating a more immersive and engaging experience for the reader. It allows them to visualize and experience the scenes, imagery helps to paint a vivid picture in the readers mind, evoking a deeper
emotional response and facilitating a stronger connection with the writing.Q. What is the purpose of using imagery in literature? Ans. The purpose of using imagery in literature is multi-fold. It helps to create a sensory experience for the reader, making the text by
providing detailed descriptions and enabling readers to visualize the scenes and events. Imagery also sets the mood and atmosphere of a piece of writing, evoking specific emotions and adding depth to the narrative.Q. Can imagery be used in non-fiction writing, evoking specific emotions and enabling readers to visualize the scenes and events. Imagery also sets the mood and atmosphere of a piece of writing, evoking specific emotions and enabling readers to visualize the scenes and events.
focuses on conveying factual information, incorporating imagery can make the writing more engaging and relatable. For example, in a travel article, the author may use imagery to describe the sights, sounds, and smells of a particular destination, allowing the readers to feel as if they are experiencing the place themselves.Q. Is imagery only about
visual descriptions? Ans. No, imagery is not limited to visual descriptions alone. While visual imagery is the most common form, imagery can also engage other senses such as hearing, touch, taste, and smell. Writers use descriptive language to evoke auditory, tactile, gustatory, and olfactory imagery, enabling readers to experience a broader range of
      ations and emotions.Q. How can writers effectively incorporate imagery into their writing? Ans. To effectively incorporate imagery into their writing, writers should focus on using descriptive and evocative language. They can use specific and sensory-rich details to create vivid mental images and engage the senses of the reader. It is essential to
choose words that accurately convey the desired imagery and to consider the overall tone, mood, and atmosphere of the piece. Writers should aim to strike a balance between providing enough detail to stimulate the readers imagination and leaving room for their interpretation. Related Imagery is a literary device that refers to the use of figurative
language to evoke a sensory experience or create a picture with words for a reader. By utilizing effective descriptive language and figures of speech, writers appeal to a readers senses of sight, taste, smell, touch, and sound, as well as internal emotion and feelings. Therefore, imagery is not limited to visual representations or mental images, but also
includes physical sensations and internal emotions. For example, in his novelThe Scarlet Letter, Nathaniel Hawthorne utilizes imagery as a literary device to create a sensation for the reader as a means of understanding the love felt by the protagonist, Hester Prynne. Love, whether newly born or aroused from a deathlike slumber, must always create
sunshine, filling the heart so full of radiance, that it overflows upon the outward world. By using descriptive language in an effective and unique way, Hawthorne evokes feelings and allows the reader an internal emotional response in reaction to his description of love. This image is especially poignant and effective for readers of this novel since
Hesters love, in the story, results in darkness, shame, and isolation for Hesters emotions and actions, despite her transgression of societal norms, morals, and laws. Common Examples of Imagery in Everyday
SpeechPeople frequently use imagery as a means of communicating feelings, thoughts, and ideas through descriptive language. Here are some common examples of imagery in everyday speech: The autumn leaves are a blanket on the ground. Her lips tasted as sweet as sugar. His words felt like a dagger in my heart. My head is pounding like a
drum. The kittens fur is milky. The siren turned into a whisper as it ended. His coat felt like a velvet curtain. The houses look like frosted cakes in winter. The light under the door looked buttery. I came inside because the house smells like a chocolate brownie. Types of Poetic Imagery provided into a whisper as it ended. His coat felt like a velvet curtain. The houses look like frosted cakes in winter. The light under the door looked buttery. I came inside because the house smells like a chocolate brownie. Types of Poetic Imagery provided into a whisper as it ended. His coat felt like a velvet curtain. The houses look like frosted cakes in winter. The light under the door looked buttery. I came inside because the house smells like a chocolate brownie.
imagery often feature figures of speech such as similes and metaphors to make comparisons. Overall, poetic imagery: Visual: appeals to a readers imagination and emotions as well as their senses. Here are the main types of poetic imagery: Visual: appeals to the sense of sight through the
description of color, light, size, pattern, etc. Auditory: appeals to the sense of hearing or sound by including melodic sounds, silence, harsh noises, and even onomatopoeia. Gustatory: appeals to the sense of touch by describing how something
physically feels, such as its temperature, texture, or other sensation. Olfactory: appeals to a readers sense of moving or the movements of an object. Organic: appeals to a readers sense of moving or the movements of an object. Organic appeals to a readers sense of moving or the movements of an object. Organic appeals to a readers sense of moving or the movement through describing somethings fragrance or odor. Kinesthetic: appeals to an object. Organic appeals to a readers sense of moving or the movements of an object. Organic appeals to a readers sense of moving or the movement through describing somethings fragrance or odor. Kinesthetic: appeals to a readers sense of moving or the movement through describing somethings fragrance or odor. Kinesthetic: appeals to a readers sense of moving or the movement through describing somethings fragrance or odor. Kinesthetic: appeals to a readers sense of moving or the movement through describing somethings fragrance or odor. Kinesthetic: appeals to a readers sense of moving or the movement through describing sense of moving or the moving 
feelings, and emotions, such as fatigue, thirst, fear, love, loneliness, despair, etc. Famous Examples of Imagery to create pictures in the minds of readers, often with words and phrases that are uniquely descriptive and emotionally charged to emphasize an idea. William Shakespeares works feature imagery
as a literary device for readers and audiences as a means to enhance their experience of his plays. Shakespeares artistic use of language and imagery in Shakespearean works: My bounty is as boundless as the sea, My love as deep. Romeo and Juliet Theres
daggers in mens smiles. Macbeth Sigh no more, ladies, sigh no more, ladies, sigh no more, Men were deceivers ever, one thing constant never. Much Ado About Nothing If I be waspish, best beware my sting. The Taming of the ShrewGood-night, sweet prince; And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest. Hamlet Lovers and madmen have such
seething brains, Such shaping fantasies, that apprehendMore than cool reason ever comprehends. A Midsummer Nights DreamWe are such stuff as dreams are made on, and our little life is rounded with a sleep. The TempestAnd thus I clothe my naked villainyWith odd old ends stoln out of holy writ; And seem a saint, when most I play the devil. Richard
IIIBy heaven, me thinks it were an easy leap, To pluck bright honour from the pale-faced moonHenry IVIf music be the food of love, play on, Give me excess of it; that surfeiting, The appetite may sicken, and so die. Twelfth NightWriting ImageryWriters use imagery to evoke emotion in readers. In this way, the readers understanding of the poetic
subject, setting, plot, characters, etc., is deepened and they have a sense of how to feel about it. Ideally, as a literary device, imagery should enhance a literary device, imagery to be effective and significant,
whether, in poetry or a story, it should add depth and meaning to the literary work. Overuse of imagery can feel tedious for readers and limit their access to and understanding of the writers purpose. Therefore, its essential for writers to balance presenting information in a straightforward manner and using imagery as a literary device. Difference
between Literal Imagery and Figurative Imagery, as the name applies, is near in meanings and almost the same thing or exactly what the description says. For example, color like the red rose implies the same thing is often not what it
implies. There is often the use of hyperbole, simile, or metaphors that construct an image that could be different from the actual thing or person. For example, his cries moved the sky is not an example of literal imagery but of figurative imagery as the skies do not move with cries. Tips to Analyze Imagery Analysis of imagery is often done in poetry and
short stories. However, imagery is present in every literary work, a reader first analyses different figures of speech such as metaphors, similes, personifications, imagery, and hyperbole, etc. There are four major steps in analyzing imagery in a specific
description. Identify the type of figures of speech, types of images, and their roles in the description. Compare and contrast the role of the specific figures of speech, their meanings, their roles, and their end product. Critique the description and see how it demonstrates its
actual meanings in the context and setting. Use of Imagery in SentencesIwans sweaty gym clothes left a stale odor in the locker room; so they had to keep the windows open. The tasty, salty broth soothed her sore throat as Simran ate the warm soup. Glittering white, the blanket of snow-covered everything in sight and also blocked the street. The tree
bark was rough against the deers skin but it did satisfy its itch. Kids could hear the popping and crackling as their mom dropped the bacon into the frying pan, and soon the salty, greasy smell wafted toward me. Examples of Imagery is often associated with poetry, it is an effective literary device in all forms of writing.
Writers utilize imagery as a means of communicating their thoughts and perceptions on a deeper and more memorable level with readers. Imagery helps a reader formulate a visual picture and sensory impression of what the writer is describing as well as the emotions attached to the description. In addition, imagery is a means of showcasing a
writers mastery of artistic and figurative language, which also enhances the meaning and enjoyment of a literary work for a reader. Here are some examples of imagery in literature: Example 1:Goblin Market (Christina Rossetti) Early in the morning When the first cock crowd his warning, Neat like bees, as sweet and busy, Laura rose with Lizzie: Fetchd
in honey, milkd the cows, Aird and set to rights the house, Kneaded cakes of whitest wheat, Cakes for dainty mouths to eat, Next churnd butter, whippd up cream, Fed their poultry, sat and sewd; Talkd as modest maidens should: Lizzie with an open heart, Laura in an absent dream, One content, one sick in part; One warbling for the mere bright days
delight, One longing for the night. In this passage of her poem, Rossetti uses all forms of poetic imagery to appeal to the readers physical senses as well as their experience of motion and internal emotions. The reader can visualize the actions taking place in the poem along with a sense of orderly movement paired with disordered emotion. As the
sisters Lizzie and Laura go about their maidenly and pastoral tasks, the poets description of the tension between darkness and light, innocence and temptation. These contrasting images evoke unsettled and contradictory feelings for the reader, undermining the appearance of the sisters
idyllic lives with a sense of foreboding. Example 2: The Yellow Wallpaper (Charlotte Perkins Gilman) The color is repellant, almost revolting; a smouldering unclean yellow, strangely faded by the slow-turning sunlight. It is a dull yet lurid orange in some places, a sickly sulphur tint in others. No wonder the children hated it! I should hate it myself if I had
to live in this room long. In this passage of Gilmans short story, the narrator uses poetic imagery to describe the yellow wallpaper which eventually ensures her mind and body. The narrators imagery effectively appeals to the readers sense of sight, smell, and touch so that the reader is as repulsed by the wallpaper as the storys protagonist. By
utilizing imagery as a literary device, Gilman is able to evoke the same feelings of sickness, despair, fear, claustrophobia, etc., for the reader as she does for the narrator. In addition to this emotional effect, the artistic language used to describe the yellow wallpaper also enhances its symbolic presence in the story. Example 3: The Red
Wheelbarrow(William Carlos Williams)so much dependsupona red wheelbarrowglazed with rainwaterbeside the whitechickensThis poem by Williams features imagery and, in fact, is an example of Imagist poetry. Imagism was a poetic movement of the early twentieth century that veered away from the heavy description that was
characteristic of Romantic and Victorian poems. Instead, the purpose of Imagism was to create an accurate image or presentation of a subject that would be visually concrete for the reader. Imagist poets achieved this through succinct, direct, and specific language, favoring precise phrasing over set poetic meter. In Williamss poem, the poet uses
simple language and clear expression to create imagery for the reader of a red wheelbarrow, lending beauty, and symbolism to an ordinary object. By describing the wheelbarrow with sparse but precise language, the reader can picture an exact visual image of what the poet is trying to convey which, in turn, evokes an emotional response to the
image. This imagery enhances the meaning of the poems phrasing such that each word becomes essential, and the poem and its imagery are nearly indistinguishable. Synonyms with slightly different meanings. They are imagination, picturing, mental imagery, vision, imaging, and dreaming are almost near in
meanings but evocation, chimera, pretense, and minds eyes.
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