

## Teaching Writing → Students and Creative Writing

### Level: High School

*Writers use their own memories and experiences to enrich their writing. Details of the words people use in conversation, how a place smells, a person's reaction to an event can make fictional people, places, and events seem real to readers.*

**Spend some time remembering and observing. Then, answer the questions below.**

- 1. Descriptive Details:** Think about a place you have been that might be used as a setting for a story. Jot down words that occur to you as you remember. Now remember the place with all five of your senses: smell, taste, touch, hearing, seeing. Use what you remember to write a simile or metaphor that could be used in describing your setting.
- 2. Character Traits:** In order to make a character come alive, you need details. Make up a character based on someone you know well, like your brother or your mother. As you write about the character, think about the details by asking yourself questions. How does my brother sound when he is eating or when he's sleeping? How does my mother's face look when she is angry?
- 3. Dialogue:** Dialogue draws your readers in and tells them a lot about your characters. Think about the words people use. Sometimes people have a favorite word or expression that they use a lot. Assign that word or expression to one of your characters. People talk differently on the phone and in person. Write some dialogue between two characters. It can be in person, on the phone, or even by text message.

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