

Name: _____

Descriptive Writing: Skills Review

Section 1: Spot the Technique

Match each sentence below to the correct descriptive technique from the word bank.

Simile

Metaphor

Personification

Alliteration

Onomatopoeia

1. The old trees whispered secrets in the cold night air.

2. The moon was like a silver coin floating above the dark sea.

3. The angry waves crashed against the wet rocks with a loud boom.

4. The quiet forest was an endless green ocean of leaves.

5. Soft, silver sand slipped smoothly between my toes.

Section 2: Sensory Detectiv

Read the description of the abandoned house in the woods. Choose the best answer for each question.

Deep in the woods, an abandoned house leaned between the trees. Moss covered its cracked walls, and broken windows stared out from beneath the sagging roof. I pushed open the heavy door. It groaned, and a floorboard creaked above me. The air smelled of damp wood and wet leaves. Inside, a cold draft brushed my face. The house stood like a broken tooth among the trees. I heard a soft tap from upstairs. My heart began to pound, so I stopped and listened. A branch scraped against the window, and I hurried back outside.

1. Which pair of sounds does the writer describe?

- A. The door groaned and a floorboard creaked.
- B. Damp wood and wet leaves.
- C. Moss-covered walls and broken windows.
- D. A cold draft and rough floorboards.

2. Which answer names smells from the text?

- A. Damp wood and wet leaves.
- B. The door groaning and a floorboard creaking.
- C. Mossy walls, broken windows and a sagging roof.
- D. A cold draft and a rough floorboard.

3. Which sentence from the text uses a simile?

- A. The house stood like a broken tooth among the trees.
- B. The air smelled of damp wood and wet leaves.
- C. The door groaned as I pushed it open.
- D. My heart began to pound.

4. Which pair of details shows that the narrator is becoming frightened?

- A. "My heart began to pound" and "I stopped and listened."
- B. "Moss covered its cracked walls" and "broken windows."
- C. "The air smelled of damp wood" and "wet leaves."
- D. "The house leaned between the trees" and "the roof sagged."

Section 3: Upgrading Boring Sentences

Weak descriptions use simple words like *dark*, *nice*, or *big*. Improve each boring sentence by adding **sensory details**, **strong adjectives**, or a **figurative technique**.

Example:



Boring: The beach was nice.

1. Which sentence best improves “The room was dark”? Choose the best option and write its letter.

A. The room was dark and not bright.

B. Shadows filled the room, and a cold draft brushed my skin.

C. The room was dark because it was night.

2. Which sentence best improves “The party was loud”? Choose the best option and write its letter.

A. The party was loud, noisy and not quiet.

B. Lively music thumped through the room as excited voices rose above the crowd.

C. The party was loud because many people were there.

D. The party was noisy and loud.

3. Which sentence best improves “His haircut was bad”? Choose the best option and write its letter.

A. His haircut was not very good.

B. Uneven tufts stuck out, and the short fringe brushed his eyebrows.

C. His haircut was bad because it looked bad.

D. His hair was cut.

4. Which sentence best improves “The garden was big”? Choose the best option and write its letter.

A. The garden was big and large.

B. The garden was big because it had many plants.

C. Tall trees shaded the wide garden, where winding paths disappeared among thick flower beds.

D. There was a garden outside.

5. Which sentence best improves “The soup was nice”? Choose the best option and write its letter.

A. The soup was nice and good.

B. The soup was nice because I liked it.

C. The soup was a bowl of food.

D. Steam curled from the bowl as the rich, savoury smell made my mouth water.

Section 4: Describe the Scene



Study the picture of the jungle ruins, then choose the best answer for each question.

1. Which sentence creates the clearest picture of the jungle ruins?

- A. The place looked old.
- B. Twisting vines covered cracked stone walls beneath the jungle canopy.
- C. I saw lots of things.
- D. It was a nice place.

2. Which detail appeals to hearing?

- A. Leaves rustled and insects buzzed.
- B. Damp earth filled the air.
- C. Vines covered the old walls.
- D. Rough stones pressed against my hand.

3. Which sentence uses a simile to describe the ruins?

- A. The ruins stood like a sleeping giant.
- B. The ruins were very old.
- C. Vines covered the walls.
- D. The stones were rough and cold.