

## SETTING EXERCISE: FLEX YOUR DESCRIPTIVE MUSCLES

Choose a setting location and list two sensory details for each of the five senses.

### SIGHT

1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_

### SMELL

1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_

### SOUND

1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_

### TEXTURE

1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_

### TASTE

1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_

Now, write a paragraph describing this setting through the eyes of a character who has never visited this location before. Weave in the quality of light, the time of day or the season (if it applies), and use at least 3 of the 5 senses above. Try to show us who the character is and what he or she feels.

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Now rewrite this passage, this time using foreshadowing to imply that something bad is about to happen. Concentrate on building a subtle mood of unease or home in on a detail that does not fit in the setting, drawing attention to it. Try out some new sensory description choices if you like.

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Now, let's ramp up the tension. Rewrite this again to show your character interacting with the setting as he or she either flees, fights, or hides. Description should flow with the action of the scene, showing emotion and mood. Remember to try some shorter sentences to reflect urgency.

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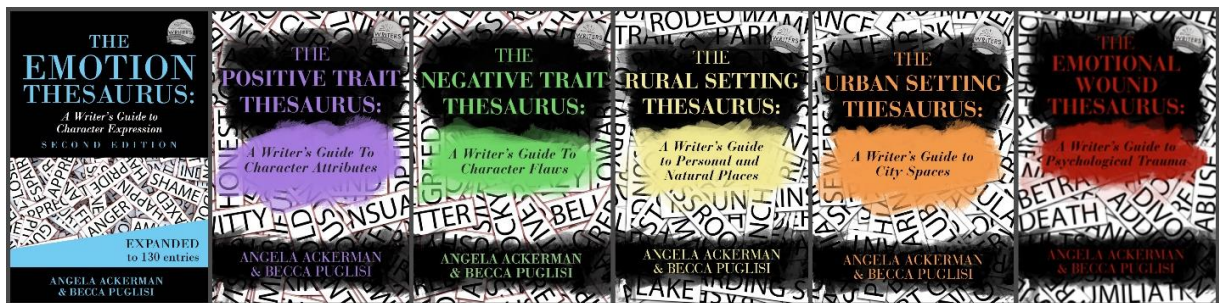
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## WHAT IS A WRITERS HELPING WRITERS® DESCRIPTIVE THESAURUS?

Have you ever had a critique partner or editor suggest you need to show, not tell? Angela Ackerman and Becca Puglisi have, which is why the two set out to learn as much as possible about showing and telling, and how to master both. To help others, they created the [Writers Helping Writers Thesaurus series](#), where they dive deep into an area of description and provide comprehensive lists of specific details that will help writers bring that element alive on the page.

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