

Imaginative Ways of Describing

Aimed at children in Years 3, 4 and 5 but suitable for anyone who wants to try (ages 3 to 120)

[Parents and kids: feel free to tackle these in one long lesson, or you could do different sheets on different days. You may need extra paper if your kid writes a lot!]

- 1) *Imagine an alien has arrived from outer space. You are trying to explain dragons, castles and the moon to her. What are three obvious describing words (adjectives) you might use?*

List your adjectives below the thing you're describing.

A Dragon

A Castle

The Moon

- 2) *Let's stretch our imaginations a bit more. Make a list of how you think dragons, castles and the moon **taste** and **smell** and **sound**. Be imaginative! (For example, a castle might taste like salt from the sea; smell like blood and gold; and sound like a roar on the battle field.)*

List your adjectives or phrases for **taste** and **smell** and **sound** below the thing you're describing.

A Dragon

A Castle

The Moon

- 3) Choosing one of those objects (a castle or a dragon or the moon) make a poem cloud as follows. Write the name of the object in the middle of the space. Now write your obvious describing words and your imaginative describing words or phrases around it and connect them with lines. Now try to add five more words or phrases which describe your object **being as imaginative as you can**. Example of poem cloud, here:



You are also allowed to make clouds for all three of them, if you're enjoying it!

4) Now you have a few options to make your poem. (Remember, you don't have to use everything from your cloud. Writers pick and choose all the time. Pick your favourite descriptions, the ones you like and are proud of)

- a. You can free style it, and just write the poem you want to write using any of the language from this exercise.
- b. You can make a picture/shape poem. Arrange your descriptions to make the shape of the thing you're describing.
- c. You can write something in prose. Just a paragraph or maybe a whole story using some of your favourite descriptions. Perhaps the dragon storms the castle and wreaks havoc. Or you land on the moon and have to find treasure.
- d. If you want to write a poem but are stuck for a format you could begin like this:

*It was the strangest (dragon/castle/moon) I had ever seen,
Tasting like
Smelling like
It was and andand
(and so on)*