

# Y5 Settings Characters Atmosphere

KS2 Y5 English · Follows the national curriculum

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## 1. Worked example

**Describe an abandoned fairground, creating an eerie atmosphere**

Step 1 · Sight

Faded horses stared from the broken carousel.

Step 2 · Sound

A loose sign banged in the wind.

Step 3 · Touch or smell

The air smelled of rust and old candyfloss.

**Answer: Faded horses stared from the broken carousel. A loose sign banged in the wind, and the air smelled of rust and old candyfloss.**

Check: Three senses, and verbs (stared, banged) that make it unsettling.

## 2. Now try one with the steps

**Show that a character is shy without using the word 'shy'**

Step 1 · Appearance or action

\_\_\_\_\_

Step 2 · Speech

\_\_\_\_\_

Step 3 · Thought or reaction

\_\_\_\_\_

**Answer:**

\_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Practice

Have a go at each one. There is space underneath to work it out.

**1.** What is the 'atmosphere' of a story?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**2.** Name the five senses you can use to describe a setting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**3.** What does 'show, don't tell' mean?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Rewrite to show, not tell: 'Dev was excited.'

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5. Write a sentence about a storm using the sense of hearing.

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6. Write a sentence about a bakery using the sense of smell.

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7. Give two jobs that dialogue can do in a story.

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8. Which verb creates a more threatening atmosphere: 'the fog came' or 'the fog crept'?

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9. Write a line of dialogue that shows a character is bossy.

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10. Improve this dialogue so it moves the story on: "Hi," said Sam. "Hi," said Raj.'

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11. Describe a busy market using three senses in two sentences.

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12. Write one sentence that combines speech, action and setting.

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13. Change 'The old house was spooky' into a sentence that creates atmosphere without the word 'spooky'.

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14. Why might a writer describe the weather at the start of a tense chapter?

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#### 4. Before you hand it in

**Telling the mood: 'It was a scary place.'**

Use senses and strong verbs: 'Something scratched behind the wall.'

**Long lists of adjectives: 'the dark, gloomy, cold, creepy, old house'**

Choose one or two precise adjectives and a strong verb.

**Chatty dialogue that goes nowhere**

Cut greetings. Make every line of speech do a job.

**A whole page of description before anything happens**

Weave description into action and dialogue.