

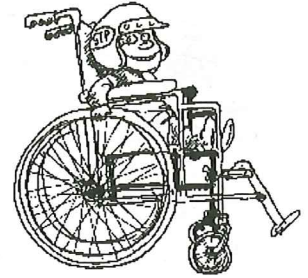
# Specific Emotion and Sensory Words

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

## Specific Emotion Words

People connect with other people through their emotions. Whether you're writing a fictional narrative, personal narrative, an opinion piece or a persuasive piece, it's a good idea to use specific emotion words.

**Specific emotion words are words that tell the reader exactly how someone feels.** Some young writers try to do this, but they use words that could mean more than one thing.



**General:** Last spring, when our High Achievers Club helped clean up the beach, I felt really **good**.

The word *good* in this sentence could be talking about physical health. Were you just getting over the flu and now you feel better? Or, it could be talking about a specific emotion. Did you feel proud? Helpful? The meaning is unclear, fuzzy.

In this sentence, the writer substitutes **two specific emotion words to give clarity and maturity to the writing:**

**Specific:** Last spring, when our High Achievers Club helped clean up the beach, I felt **proud and helpful**, like I had contributed something.

## Specific Sensory Words

When an author takes the time to describe something to her readers, she usually wants them to imagine and mentally experience what she's describing. Many young authors use general words to describe the five senses. **General words are words like good, great, terrific, awesome, or bad, terrible, horrible and gross.** These words point the reader towards positive and negative feelings, but they are too general.

Really mature writing uses specific sensory words. **Specific sensory words pinpoint the exact sense, or sensation, you are talking about.**

**General:** I didn't eat my sandwich because it tasted **bad**.

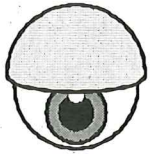
**Specific:** I didn't eat my sandwich because it tasted **stale**.

# Young Author's List of Sensory Words

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

Razzle dazzle your readers by writing with descriptive sensory words.

## Sight



black & white  
bright  
brilliant  
cloudy  
colored  
crystal clear  
curved

dark  
dull  
faded  
flapping  
flashing  
floating  
foggy

hazy  
large  
light  
misty  
murky  
opaque  
pointed

psychedelic  
round  
shaded  
spotted  
square  
stained  
straight

striped  
swaying  
swirling  
textured  
translucent  
transparent  
twisted

## Sound



baying  
beating  
booming  
buzzing  
chiming  
chugging  
clanging  
clanking

clinking  
crackling  
crashing  
dripping  
grating  
growling  
honking  
howling

humming  
jangling  
jingling  
meowing  
moaning  
mooing  
popping  
revving

roaring  
rustling  
scraping  
screeching  
slurping  
sneezing  
snorting  
sobbing

splashing  
sputtering  
swishing  
ticking  
wailing  
whinnying  
whistling  
whizzing

## Taste



bitter  
bubbly  
burnt  
buttery  
cheesy  
chocolatey

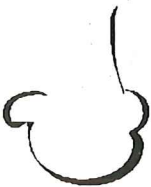
dry  
fishy  
fresh  
garlicy  
gingery  
juicy

lemony  
moldy  
nutty  
oily  
oniony  
peppery

rancid  
salty  
smoky  
sour  
spicy  
spoiled

stale  
sugary  
sweet  
sweet & sour  
tart  
vinegary

## Smell



antiseptic  
cheesy  
dank  
decayed  
dusty  
earthy

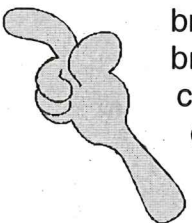
flowery  
fresh  
fruity  
gassy  
grassy  
leathery

mildewy  
musky  
musty  
new  
old  
perfumey

pungent  
putrid  
rainy  
rancid  
rosy  
rotten

salty  
sharp  
smoky  
strong  
wet  
woody

## Touch



bristly  
brittle  
cottony  
crusty  
dewy  
flexible

furry  
glassy  
goeey  
gritty  
hairy  
metallic

moist  
nubby  
pleated  
powdery  
puffy  
rough

sandy  
silky  
slick  
slimy  
smooth  
spongy

starchy  
steamy  
sticky  
stiff  
velvety  
wiry

# Young Author's List of Specific Emotion Words

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

One of the reasons we like to read fiction is because we can live many different lives through the characters we read about. Readers like to connect emotionally with characters, so be sure to use specific words that pinpoint feelings.



## Positive Emotions....

accepted  
affirmed  
appreciated  
approved  
beautiful  
befriended  
calm  
cheerful  
cherished  
courteous  
ecstatic

empowered  
encouraged  
exalted  
excited  
exhilarated  
exonerated  
exuberant  
forgiven  
generous  
happy  
helpful  
honored  
hopeful  
impressed

included  
joyful  
jubilant  
kind  
loved  
loyal  
needed  
obedient  
overjoyed  
patient  
praised  
prepared  
protected  
proud

purposeful  
recognized  
relaxed  
respected  
revered  
reverent  
rewarded  
safe  
secure  
sympathetic  
trusted  
understood  
uplifted  
useful

## Negative Emotions....

agitated  
aloof  
ambivalent  
angry  
ashamed  
average  
bedraggled  
befuddled  
belligerent  
bereft  
betrayed  
bewildered  
blah  
blamed  
blase'  
blue  
bothered  
chastised  
confused  
contrary  
crazy  
crushed  
depressed



discarded  
discouraged  
discriminated  
disgusted  
distant  
faint  
frustrated  
guilty  
hated  
hesitant  
hopeless  
hostile  
humiliated  
idiotic  
impetuous  
implicated  
indifferent  
insane  
insecure  
irritated  
jilted  
laughed at  
left-out

lonely  
mad  
melancholy  
mocked  
moronic  
morose  
ornery  
out-of-control  
out-of-step  
overwhelmed  
perplexed  
picked on  
pouty  
puny  
put down  
rebellious  
rejected  
reviled  
revolted  
rotten  
sad  
scared  
shattered



sick  
slighted  
spoiled  
spooky  
strange  
stressed  
stubborn  
stupid  
temperamental  
trapped  
tumultuous  
ugly  
unhappy  
unprepared  
unruly  
upset  
used  
useless  
vexed  
vulnerable  
weak  
weary  
worn-out