

Features of Descriptive Writing

Good descriptive writing can really bring a text to life. Writers use a variety of techniques to add depth to their descriptions.

I nearly got into the garage that Sunday morning. I took my own torch and shone it in. The outside doors to the back lane must have fallen off years ago and there were dozens of massive planks nailed across the entrance. The timbers holding the roof were rotten and the roof was sagging in. The bits of the floor you could see between the rubbish were full of cracks and holes. The people that took the rubbish out of the house were supposed to take it out of the garage as well, but they took one look at the place and said they wouldn't go in it even for danger money. There were old chests of drawers and broken wash-basins and bags of cement, ancient doors leaning against the walls, deck chairs with the cloth seats rotted away. Great rolls of rope and cable hung from nails. Heaps of water pipes and great boxes of rusty nails were scattered on the floor. Everything was covered in dust and spiders' webs. There was mortar that had fallen from the walls. There was a little window in one of the walls but it was filthy and there were rolls of cracked lino standing in front of it. The place stank of rot and dust. Even the bricks were crumbling like they couldn't bear the weight any more. It was like the whole thing was sick of itself and would collapse in a heap and have to get bulldozed away.

I heard something scratching in one of the corners, and something scuttling about, and it was all just dead quiet in there.

Extract from Skellig - Chapter 3

Task One.

Copy and complete the table below using examples from the extract.

Descriptive Techniques		Example from the Text
The Five Senses	Touch	
	Taste	
	Smell	
	Sight	
	Sound	
Interesting adjectives		
Interesting verbs		
Other techniques such as alliteration, simile, metaphor etc		

Task Two.

Using the techniques of descriptive writing, write a few paragraphs the scene from Mr Hollow.