



Painting with Words: A Cute & Fun Journey into Imagery

Hello, friend! I'm Lex. I live in a world made
of words, and I'd love to show you around.
Grab your imagination and let's go on an
adventure to the Imagi-Nation!

Imagi-Nation



Crystal-Clear Canyons



Cinnamon Meadows



Gummy Bear Grotto



Whispering Woods



Fuzzy Moss Fields



River of Motion



Heartfelt Valley



Our Magical Map to the Imagi-Nation!

Before we start, what's the magic that powers this world?

It's called **Imagery**!

Imagery is the art of using descriptive words to create a mental picture. It's how writers play to a reader's senses to paint a picture with words, making you feel like you're right there in the story!

Ready? Our first stop is just ahead!



First Stop: The Crystal-Clear Canyons (Visual Imagery)

Welcome to the land of sight! **Visual Imagery** describes what we see: colors, shapes, sizes, and patterns. It's the most common way to help readers picture a scene.

Think about:

- **Color:** burnt red, Robin's egg blue
- **Shape:** circular, conical, jagged
- **Size:** minuscule, gigantic

An example from a famous story (*The Hobbit*):

"The far bank was steep and slippery... Dark and drear it looked, though there were patches of sunlight on its brown sides, and behind its shoulders, the tips of snow-peaks gleamed."

Listen Closely in the Whispering Woods (Auditory Imagery)

Shhh... do you hear that? **Auditory Imagery** describes what we hear, from beautiful music and birdsong to loud noises or even an eerie silence.

Listen for:

- The bang of a gun
- The crackle and pop of a fire
- The peal of piano keys

An example from a poem (*Birches* by Robert Frost):

"...They click upon themselves
As the breeze rises, and turn many-colored
As the stir cracks and crazes their enamel."





Following Our Noses to the Cinnamon Meadows (Olfactory Imagery)

What's that amazing smell? We've arrived in the land of **Olfactory Imagery**, which appeals to our sense of smell. Scents can be powerful, often triggering memories and emotions.

Can you smell it?

- **Fragrances:** sweet hibiscus, mother's perfume
- **Odors:** burnt toast, a stinky wet dog

An example from a poem (*Rain in Summer* by H.W. Longfellow):
"They silently inhale
the clover-scented gale,
And the vapors that arise
From the well-watered and smoking soil."



A Snack Break in the Gummy Bear Grotto (Gustatory Imagery)

All this adventuring works up an appetite! **Gustatory Imagery** describes what we taste, from sweet and salty to sour and spicy.

A taste of...

- **Sweetness:** swirls of bittersweet chocolate
- **Sourness:** lemons and limes
- **Savoriness:** a steak dinner or thick soup

A classic example (*The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*):

"Each piece was sweet and light to the very centre and Edmund had never tasted anything more delicious."

Feeling Our Way Through the Fuzzy Moss Fields (Tactile Imagery)

This land is all about feeling! **Tactile Imagery** describes the sense of touch. It can be temperature, texture, or any other physical sensation.

What do you feel?

- **Temperature:** bitter cold, stifling heat
- **Texture:** rough, ragged, seamless, and smooth
- **Touch:** grass tickling skin, sweat cooling on a brow

An example from a novel (*Jane Eyre*):

"I grew by degrees cold as a stone, and then my courage sank... [my] forlorn depression, fell damp on the embers of my decaying ire."



Leaping Across the River of Motion (Kinesthetic Imagery)

Let's get moving! **Kinesthetic Imagery** isn't one of the five senses, but it's just as important. It describes the sensation of movement and action.

Feel the motion:

- "Fluttering and dancing in the breeze"
- "Rummaging through a drawer"
- "A sudden blow"

A poetic example ("Daffodils" by William Wordsworth):
The daffodils are described as "*Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.*" This makes them feel alive and joyful!



Exploring the Heartfelt Veartfelt Valley (Organic Imagery)

Our last stop is a special one. It's about what we feel on the inside. **Organic Imagery** describes internal sensations and emotions—like hunger, fatigue, fear, or love.

Feelings from within:

- “A heart fluttering with excitement”
- “An overwhelming pang of grief”
- “Eyes lighting up with joy”

An example of feeling weary (*Birches* by Robert Frost):

“It's when I'm weary of considerations, /
And life is too much like a pathless wood...”





Weaving All the Senses Together

The best writers don't just visit one land—they bring them all together to create a full experience!
Look how E.B. White does it in *Charlotte's Web*:

"The barn was very large. It was very old. It smelled of hay and it smelled of manure. It smelled of the perspiration of tired horses and the wonderful sweet breath of patient cows. It often had a sort of peaceful smell as though nothing bad could happen ever again in the world."

Visual: "very large," "very old"

Olfactory: "smelled of hay," "manure," "sweet breath"

Organic: "a sort of peaceful smell"



Now It's **Your** Turn to Paint with **Words**!

Your tour of the Imagi-Nation is over, but your adventure as a writer is just beginning! Try using your new sensory magic with these fun ideas:

- ❖ **Prompt 1 (Visual/Tactile):** Describe a dragon's egg. Is it smooth as a river stone or rough like bark? What colors does it shimmer with in the sunlight?
- ❖ **Prompt 2 (Auditory/Olfactory):** Imagine a magical library. What do you hear? The soft *rustle* of turning pages? Do you smell the *crisp* scent of old paper and a *hint* of magical ozone?
- ❖ **Prompt 3 (Gustatory/Organic):** What does a sip of a 'potion of courage' taste like? Is it fizzy and sharp, making your heart feel bold and warm?

Remember, by enabling new connections that go beyond straightforward details, imagery gives its power. It's what sets a good story apart apart and makes it truly magical.

Happy world-building!

