**Writing to describe**

**TASK** - Refresh your memory on the following methods:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Metaphor | Comparing something to something else which isn’t actually possible. *e.g. The man was a mountain.* |
| Simile | Comparing something to something else using ‘like’ or ‘as.’ *The snow was like a blanket covering the ground.* |
| Personification | Giving something that isn’t human, human qualities. *E.g. The trees danced in the wind.* |

In the short story Mrs Foster goes away to Paris for a short while. This is shown in the following extract:

By the time she reached Paris, she was just as strong and cool and calm as she could wish. She met her grandchildren, and they were even more beautiful in the flesh than in their photographs. They were like angels, she told herself, so beautiful they were. And every day she took them for walks, and fed them cakes, and bought them presents, and told them charming stories. Once a week, on Tuesdays, she wrote a letter to her husband a nice, chatty letter - full of news and gossip, which always ended with the words “Now be sure to take your meals regularly, dear, although this is something I’m afraid you may not be doing when I’m not with you.” When the six weeks were up, everybody was sad that she had to return to America, to her husband. Everybody, that is, except her. Surprisingly, she didn’t seem to mind as much as one might have expected, and when she kissed them all good-bye, there was something in her manner and in the things she said that appeared to hint at the possibility of a return in the not too distant future. However, like the faithful wife she was, she did not overstay her time. Exactly six weeks after she had arrived, she sent a cable to her husband and caught the plane back to New York.

How would you describe Mrs Foster’s time in Paris?

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Write down two words that have bought you to this conclusion.

1)

2)

**Challenge: There is an example of one of the methods that has been defined above.**

**Write it here:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Method: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**TASK** - Look at the following picture of a bakery in Paris:



Come up with examples of the following to describe the picture.

How could you use similes to describe things in the picture?

1. The cakes were like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. The bakers rushed around like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. The customers were as loud as \_
4. The coffee machine whistled like
5. The bread was as soft as\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What **metaphors** could you use to describe the following from the picture?

1. The food was a/an
2. The bakers were a/an…
3. The cakes were a/an

When writing to describe it is important that we give our reader a really clear account of what it is like to be at the place we are describing.

Imagine that you are standing in this bakery and imagine how you can incorporate all of the senses.



Think about:

**Sight –** *look at all of the beautiful colours of the cakes. What else could you describe?*

**Hear-** *what would you be able to hear? People shouting their orders, speaking French.*

**Touch-** *the glass counter, the cakes and the soft bread.*

**Taste/smell** – *how could you describe all of the delicious smells you would be experiencing?*

Write down all of your ideas below.

See:

**Challenge: Can you think of a method to describe what you see?**

Hear:

**Challenge: Can you think of a method to describe what you hear?**

Touch:

**Challenge: Can you think of a method to describe what you feel?**

Taste/Smell:

**Challenge: Can you think of a method to describe what you taste/smell?**

**Writing to describe task:**

Using all of the ideas you have come up with from both of the pictures you have looked at I want you to write a description based on one of the pictures.

Make sure you include:

1. **Similes**
2. **Metaphors**
3. **Description involving the senses (what can you hear, smell, touch and see.)**
4. **Varied and interesting vocabulary.**

Challenge: Personification is giving an object human features or characteristics.

Example: The wardrobe stood proudly at the back of the room.

1. The baking bread .
2. The chairs .
3. The gleaming cakes .

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Now add some personification into your description.

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