



ZINC
learning labs

Zinc Reading Ignition: Use Your Senses

Use Your Senses

What Is Use Your Senses?

The easiest words to read and understand describe things you can see, hear, smell, touch, or taste. Always find those first.

As you imagine a sensory word or phrase, notice what's going on in your mind. What senses are you using? What does the image look, sound, smell, feel, or taste like? What kind of feelings go with it?

When you use your senses, you get the author's meaning and follow what's going on.

How Do I Do It?

As you read, look out for sensory images:

The flashy red parrot let out a loud shriek.

Notice the words and phrases that you can easily imagine with your senses:

The flashy red parrot let out **a loud shriek**.

I can SEE the flashy red parrot. I can HEAR the loud shriek.

Writers choose images that make us think and feel certain things. As you read, explore the thoughts and feelings that come up:

The flashy red parrot let out a loud shriek that **shattered the stillness** of the forest.

When I read "shattered the stillness" I feel shocked, like something is a little dangerous or spooky. I feel like the forest is on alert.



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How to Use Your Senses As You Read

Sense	Example Phrases Using That Sense	Thoughts And Feelings
Sight	Fifteen golden butterflies sparkled in the bright sun .	I can SEE the butterflies, SEE their sparkling wings, and imagine what the bright sun LOOKS like. The image makes me feel happy, free, and light.
Sound	I was trying to study, but the TV was blaring and a garbage truck clanked and groaned its way down the street.	I can HEAR the loud TV show and imagine the SOUND of the big noisy truck. These sounds make me feel frustrated and distracted. It feels like my ears hurt.
Touch	The sun warmed my shoulders and a gentle breeze brushed my cheek .	I can FEEL the hot sun on my shoulders and imagine the breeze TOUCHING my cheek. I feel safe, relaxed, and peaceful.
Taste	The chile sauce tasted lemony and tangy at first, but in two seconds it became hot, spicy, and bitter .	I can TASTE the tangy sauce and imagine it turning spicy in my mouth. I feel something delicious and exciting but then I feel sweaty and shocked.
Smell	After the rain, the garden smelled rich, like warm wet dirt and candy-sweet roses .	I can SMELL the damp dirt and the heavenly scent of roses. I feel alive, inspired, and connected to nature.