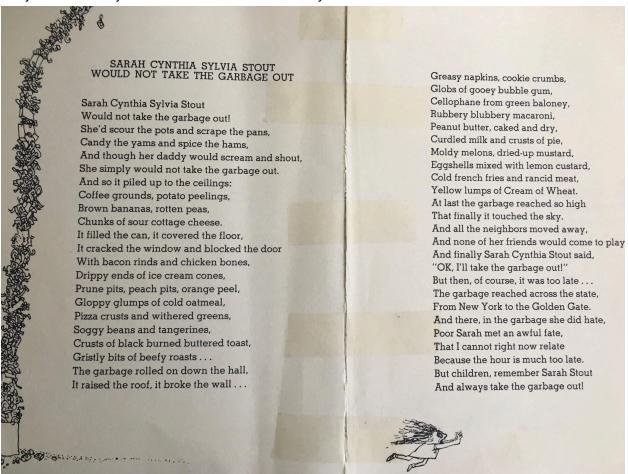
Focus - Detailed Writing

Day 1: Descriptive Poetry

Detailed writing can make something that is most basic, MAGICAL. Now, when I say magical, I mean it gets those senses going and you react to what you are reading. It might make you amazed, grossed out, terrified or upset. Whatever emotion it evokes from you, it's all in the wording. So for today, read the poem "Sarah Cynthia Sylvia Stout Would not Take the Garbage Out" by Shell Silverstein.

Remember, the poem has a rhythm. Read the punctuation and stop when you're supposed to. Read it many times so that you could read it to an audience if you had to.



Now you react to it. What could you see, hear, smell, feel and taste? Write down your impressions and we'll share together.

Day 2: School in June

Read the passage. This is a great description of a brutally hot school day. Take notes (write down or underline) the words that paint pictures, make you feel something etc. What makes it good writing?

It was so hot at my school the other day, I thought I would melt into my chair. Our school doesn't have any air conditioning, so my teacher brought in a big fan. She also kept the blinds closed, but it didn't help much. Some kids complained all day, "It's so-o-o hot, Mrs. Elarth." Did they think saying it out loud would make it any cooler? Other kids kept asking whether we could go outside. What were they thinking? There's not much shade outside, and there wasn't any wind. If we had gone out, someone would have fainted objust melted. Mrs. Elarth kept her cool (ha-ha!) through all this, which was more than I could have done if I had been in charge. Maybe what we need are "Sun" days, like "Snow" days except that it's too hot to be in school.

Think of something you could describe with all of your senses and start planning.

Day 3: Your Turn to Write

What can you describe in a paragraph?

Where are you? Pick one spot that you can clearly describe.

Start with the basics then add details as you think about your experience. Rough drafts are all about adding words here and there and crossing off words or sentences here and there.

Get it ready. You want to draw in your reader. Make it something you can share.

Write your rough copy in Google Docs.

Day 4: Sharing Your Details

Today is the day to show what you know. Edit your rough draft and share it with us.