

Imagery is the verbal representation of sensory experience.

In literature, all five senses may be represented: sight (visual imagery), sound (auditory imagery), touch (tactile imagery), taste (gustatory imagery), and smell (olfactory imagery).

Visual imagery is most common, but good writers experiment with a variety of images and even purposefully intermingle the senses (giving smells a color, for example).

Imagery depends on both diction and detail: an image's success in producing a sensory experience results from the specificity of the author's diction and choice of detail.

Imagery contributes to voice by evoking vivid experience, conveying specific emotion, and suggesting a particular idea.

Imagery itself is not figurative, but may be used to impart figurative or symbolic meanings.

For example, the parched earth can be a metaphor for a character's despair, or a bird's flight a metaphor for hope. Traditional imagery has a history. A river, for example, is usually associated with life's journey. Traditional images are rarely disassociated with their historic meaning. The goal is to examine the traditional meanings of images, the departure from tradition, and the effect of both on meaning.

**3 important things I learned about imagery (in my own words):

1.

2.

3.

Practice!

Assignment #1: Choose 1 passage from *The Great Gatsby* where you feel Fitzgerald uses strong imagery and type out the entire passage, including a proper citation. (Note: a passage is 1-3 paragraphs, a solid “chunk” of text). Underline/highlight examples of his strong imagery. In 1-2 paragraphs, explain WHY you think the imagery is strong. How does it impact your enjoyment/understanding of the text?

Assignment #2: Write an imitation of your chosen passage. Your imitation should be similar in length and should include similar sentence structures. Make sure to incorporate strong imagery! Try to include one or more of the rhetorical devices that you learned this week in your imitation (and annotate for those in parenthesis after the device). (Note: you have complete freedom of subject matter for your imitation).

** Assignments should be typed and should utilize proper MLA formatting.