

Adding Written Detail
Using Jane Yolen's Owl Moon as a Mentor Text

By:

Sense:

Descriptive detail

Sight

Sound

Touch

Taste

Smell

Inner Emotion

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Suggested Responses

Students need to be aware of the author's subtle and subliminal use of sensory detail.

She does not say, I heard, I saw, I touched.

There are many copies of Owl Moon around the district.

Your library clerk can gather multiple copies to use with this lesson.

Sense/emotion:	Descriptive detail
Sight	trees stood still; moon so bright, sky seemed to shine; little gray footprints; short and long shadows; black and pointy opine trees against the sky; Pa held up his hand; the moon made his face into a silver mask; we shrugged; shadows were the blackest things I had ever seen; we came to a clearing in the dark woods; the moon was high above us; snow was whiter than the milk in a cereal bowl; Pa raised his hand to my sound; an owl flew right over us; flashlight caught the owl as it was landing on a branch; we stared at one another; the owl pumped its great wings and flew back into the forest; under a shining owl moon
Sound	train whistle blew like a sad song; a farm dog's bark; quiet as a dream; you have to be quiet when owling; he called Whoo-who-who-wh-who-whooooo like a great horned owl; after each call he was silent; I sighed; an echo came threading its way through the trees; the owl's call came closer; "Time to go," Pa said
Touch	no wind; wool cap pulled down over my ears; feet crunched over the crisp snow; feel the cold as if someone's hand was palm-down on my back; nose and tops of cheeks felt cold and hot at the same time; my mouth felt furry from my wet and warm scarf; I put my mitten over the scarf over my mouth; my ears hurt;
Taste	with heat in our mouths;
Smell	
Inner Emotion	I was not disappointed; when you go owling you have to be brave; I almost smiled; you don't need words or warm or anything but hope when you go owling