

lesson 16: adding heartbeat


outcome: Peer Edit and revise your stories to include "heartbeat."

where am I?

DIRECTIONS: Read the following excerpts from two real-life personal statements. Then, fill in the chart summarizing the sensory details each author used.

"It feels good out here!" I couldn't help but say it twice to my friends Chris, Mike, and Jay. We had been in the house since early evening playing Fornite on Xbox. We decided to make ham sandwiches and go sit out on the front porch. We went outside at around 10 o'clock with our food and some Pepsi to enjoy the nice, cool night. The time passed so quickly that what seemed an hour turned into three. Around 1:15 am we noticed a decline in the warm temperature so we decided to head inside for the night....

From "I Am" by Dale Scott

	Things you can almost see	Things you can almost feel	Things you can almost smell
	Things you can almost taste	Things you can almost hear	Overall tone

STUDENT HANDOUT

For as long as I can remember, fireworks have been an important part of my life. On nights of celebration, such as the Fourth of July and Cinco de Mayo, I would cross the long street from my neatly kept apartment building to the lush green park next door. The warm air carried the familiar smells of late-night barbecues and sounds of upbeat Spanish music. I loved to watch the clear dark sky burst into colorful flowers of light, dancing fearlessly as the music from the crowds below cheered them on. Even though the nights would end too soon, the fireworks would stay with me.

From "Firecracker" by Marcia Rodriguez

Things you can almost see	Things you can almost feel	Things you can almost smell
Things you can almost taste	Things you can almost hear	Overall tone

showing with heartbeat

Key Terms:

- **Heartbeat** (n) — an emotional or meaningful thread that makes the reader engage with the story
- **Figurative language** (n) — words or phrases that are not meant to be taken literally but which are used by authors to add emotion or meaning to his/her work. Examples of figurative language include metaphors, similes, imagery, idioms, and sensory details such as those used by Dale and Marcia.
- **Sensory details** (n) — words and phrases that appeal to the five senses (sight, touch, scent, taste, and sound)
- **Plot** (n) — the order of events in a story
- **Characters** (n) — the people who participate in the plot of the story
- **Dialogue** (n) — the words and conversations that characters say in the story. Usually shown in "quotation marks."

