

# Creative Writing

## SETTING A SCENE

Shirley Martin and Eimir O' Mahony  
First Year English  
Athboy Community School, Co. Meath

### TOPIC OVERVIEW

Students are currently studying a novel named 'Parvana's Journey' which is set in war-torn Afghanistan. On Fridays, the class spend 20 minutes studying Creative Writing. In order to link in with the novel, we asked the students to create a scene of a war-torn area, using their 5 senses (sight, hearing, taste, touch and smell) as the focal point.

### LESSON PLAN OUTLINE

- Students were given an **introduction** to the lesson by Ms Martin and the task was explained Ms O'Mahony..
- Firstly, students were asked to **brainstorm** a war-torn area using their 5 senses. Students wrote keywords and phrases into copies. This was then discussed orally in the class to give students even more ideas.
- Ms Martin and Ms O'Mahony each created a paragraph and then read this to the class to aid *their* creativity and create a standard.
- Students were then asked to turn their keywords into a **descriptive paragraph**, setting the scene of a war-torn area.
- Both teachers circulated around the classroom and helped the students when needed.
- Students volunteered to read their answers aloud while other students closed their eyes and pictured the scene.

#### Sight

Bombs, fire, guns, trenches, injuries, rubble, soldiers...

#### Hear

Explosions, screaming, crying...

#### Taste

Sweat, blood, vomit, dryness...

#### Smell

Rotting flesh, gun powder, smoke...

#### Touch

Rubble, metal guns, grenades, heavy uniforms, blood...

#### How Did It Go?

This Team Teaching class went really well; when given the building blocks, students showed no issues visualizing the scene and creating a descriptive paragraph. Students stated that they felt much more able to complete the task having done a brainstorm first and given set points to focus on (the 5 senses).