

This Free E-Book is brought to you by Natural-Aging.com.

100% Effective Natural Hormone Treatment
Menopause, Andropause And Other Hormone Imbalances
Impair Healthy Healing In People Over The Age Of 30!

Sense of Place

By K Follis Chetham

Sense of Place

by: **K Follis Chetham**

What is Sense of Place? It's the image of a scene's environment evoked by the writing. The author becomes an artist; the book page is the canvas, sentences and phrasing are the brushes; words give color.

This element of a story is something most readers look for. They want to feel as if they are in the scene. Sense of place is vital to fact and fiction.

Some writers overuse adjectives with the mistaken belief that this will offer sense of place. But saying "the elegant house" isn't enough. That abstraction has little substance. "The well-landscaped house set on a knoll overseeing the valley" might say more.

Another attempt is to list things.

"Brenda looked around. The room had a brass coffee table, and a bright sofa flanked by two Queen Anne chairs. Three prints were on one wall, with the sheer curtains hanging at the wide window. Two ornate candlesticks set on the fireplace mantle."

Brenda has become a camera, with no emotion attached to the description. How about this:

"Brenda thought the bright sofa flanked by two Queen Anne chairs seemed cozy. She admired three prints, and fingered one of the ornate candlesticks on the mantle as a breeze billowed the curtains. Scents of lilac wafted through the wide window. The books on the brass coffee table caught her eye."

This second paragraph only uses eight more words than the first, yet engages the character into the description of the room so that the reader learns about the room and the character.

Sense of Place

Sense of place is important in nonfiction, too. A manual might read: "When managing a large office setting, it's important to develop good interaction between employees."

"Large office setting" is rather vague, and so is "good interaction." To give this sentence sense of place, it could be written:

"When faced with multiple workstations, harsh lighting and the continual background noises of telephones and copy machines, it's important to encourage dialogue with all employees."

Sense of place should continue throughout a paragraph or section. Here's a scene of a man stranded on a stretch of Kansas back road. "The hot July sun bore down on him" could give the initial detail. But it must be carried through the scene. Several sentences later a sentence could read, "Robert looked at his useless car." Add sense of place to this: "Robert wiped sweat from his forehead and squinted toward his useless car.

wiped sweat (it's hot) squinted (it's bright)

Later: "He looked around for the closest house."

This would work better as, "The surrounding fields of ripening wheat seemed unending, without a single roofline or driveway in sight."

By adding these touches, the sense of place enhances the story.

A good sense of place also engages most of the five senses. Include colors, smells and textures in descriptions.

"The hot July sun bore down as Robert backed from the vehicle. Why now? he wondered. He wiped sweat from his forehead and squinted at his useless car. He could smell hot metal from the engine. A puddle of radiator fluid stained the gray asphalt a sickly green..."

Robert walks along the road, thinking about what got him here, then

"His sigh was barely audible in the dry wind, and the surrounding fields of ripening wheat seemed unending, without a single roofline or driveway in sight."

Weather and nature can also establish a sense of place. In my historic novel *KANSAS DREAMER: Fury in Sumner County*, the weather becomes a prominent plot element—almost a character. (That will be the topic of a future newsletter: "Non-Human Characters".) But for sense of place, a story based in the tropics could be rife with descriptions of humidity, vivid sunsets, blown sand, myriad scents and colors from vegetation; on the negative, these areas also have hurricanes, riptides, mosquitoes, sink holes and sharks.

Weather can become a motivating factor for a character; it can parallel a character's emotions or trigger a memory; it can be an antithesis for the actions, too. The bright day did nothing to relieve

Arthur's morbid thoughts.

With a few well-placed phrases, a writer can establish a good sense of place. This will strengthen characterizations and greatly add to a reader's enjoyment of the final product.

Karyn Follis Cheatham, a 23-year member of Western Writers of America, has authored eight books, including *Dennis Banks, Native American Activist* (Finalist for the 1998 Spur Award). She has edited for magazines and publishing houses, and her articles and poetry appear in national journals and newspapers. Her books can be purchased through Writers West

web site:

e-mail:

How a Blind Date Can Increase Your Psychic Abilities

By Stephanie Yeh

So how can a blind date increase your psychic abilities? It's probably not what you're thinking. We're not talking about having a few drinks with someone you've never met before. We're talking about developing your psychic abilities by deliberately shutting down one or more of your five senses.

Because we are such physical creatures, we have a tendency to use our five senses in everything we do. That's not a bad idea for driving, walking, or working on the computer, but if you want to increase your psychic or spirit abilities, using your five senses less will help.

That's where the blind date comes in. A blind date is where you blindfold yourself and have a buddy walk you around on a "date." Your buddy's job is to make sure that you're safe and you don't walk into anything or fall in a ditch. Your buddy is your guide and will lead you around, keeping you safe and upright.

Your part of this date is to extend your psychic abilities outward as your buddy walks you around. Sense what is around you. Do you sense a large object ahead or just open space? Sense what is behind and above you as well, since your psychic abilities will allow you to see in 360 degrees.

You might want to have your buddy walk you around for a while, in many directions until you no longer have a sense of where you are. Then spin slowly around and extend your spirit perceptions. Tell your buddy what you sense in each direction and have him or her tell you if you're right.

If you don't have a buddy to do this with, you can do it by yourself outside. Start in a relatively open space and just move slowly so you don't get hurt. Give a whole new meaning to the term "blind date," right?

Stephanie Yeh, co-founder of the Esoteric School of Shamanism and Magic (

Sense of Place

), helps clients learn magical and shamanic techniques. Her current

project, a free teleconference series on a variety of magickal and shamanic topics with guest speakers, is designed to share information and promote interaction between people of varying spiritual practices.

Related Content:

[How a Blind Date Can Increase Your Psychic Abilities](#)

[Dog Kennel](#)

[Five Ways to Sharpen Your Sense of Humor and Improve Your Relationships](#)

[How It's Always Now](#)

[Finding the Need is Only Part of the Sale](#)

Read more Content at

Related Products:

[The Classified List](#)

[Character Counter Software](#)

[Web Audio Plus Software](#)

[Expand Your Professional Coaching and Consulting Business](#)

[Super Charged Linking](#)

: A genuine resource center for Quality Ebooks and Softwares



This Free E-Book has been brought to you by Natural-Aging.com.

100% Effective Natural Hormone Treatment
Menopause, Andropause And Other Hormone Imbalances
Impair Healthy Healing In People Over The Age Of 30!