

Step 3: Tightening Tension

Five + 1 Senses

Learning Intention

We are learning to add sensory details to a tension scene.

Success Criteria

Beginner	0–2 marks	Use a few ideas from the Five + 1 Senses brainstorm to build tension.
Intermediate	3–5 marks	Use a lot of ideas from the Five + 1 Senses brainstorm to build tension.
Advanced	6–7 marks	Use most of the ideas from the Five + 1 Senses brainstorm to build tension.

I Do – Model the Technique

- **Explain technique:** Use the Five + 1 Senses (see, hear, touch, taste, smell and feel) to generate ideas for a tension scene.
- **Model strategy:** As a class, discuss what you might see, hear, touch, taste, smell and feel in a churchyard (or graveyard) late at night. List the ideas on the board. For example:



I SEE	I HEAR	I TOUCH
Tall monuments *Broken headstones* *Names, births and deaths carved in stone* *Tattered flowers* *Broken bricks in grass* *Darkness*	*Wind* *Eerie rustling* *Heart beating* *Breath coming fast*	*Cold, too cold on skin* *Trees or bushes* *Cobwebs on skin* *Coat hugged tighter*
I TASTE	**I SMELL**	**I FEEL**
Fear, bitter in mouth *Strange tingling on tongue*	*Jonquils – too sweet, and out of season* *Something old, very old* *Newly mown grass* *Cold air*	*Alone* *Eerie* *Growing fear* *Frightened* *Determination* *Total panic*

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- **Model writing:** Use the following exemplar to demonstrate how to use the ideas to write a great tension scene. For example:

> *If only I hadn't been running late, I would never have taken a shortcut through the churchyard.*
>
> *The night was cold, far too cold. I hugged my coat tighter around me. It was weirdly dark too. There were all these shadows around me, tombstones and monuments of people long dead. Names, births, deaths … and now the broken bricks and long grass tell the true story – they are forgotten.*
>
> *If only I had started home earlier. It would not have been so dark. And so cold …*
>
> *The wind picked up, cutting through me. I smelt freshly mown grass; someone was paid to care. But over it all was a smell of sweetness. Too sweet.*
>
> *I put my head down and walked faster.*
>
> *Then the scream pierced the darkness. Heart pounding, I ran. If only, if only, if only …*

We Do – Group Work

- Form groups of four and ask them to choose one of the following topics:
  - A haunted house
  - A football match (or netball, tennis, basketball, etc.)
  - A bungy jump.
- Give each group a copy of the Five + 1 Senses brainstorming template on page 3.
- Give students FIVE minutes to brainstorm ideas for their tension scene using the Five + 1 Senses for their chosen topic.

You Do – Individual Activity

- Give students FOUR minutes to write a tension scene using the results of their brainstorming. They should write their scene individually. Ready, set, WRITE!

Feedback

- Ask students to share their tension scene with their group.
- Rate each tension scene using the success criteria on page 1.
- Ask each group to share their top-rated tension scene with the class.

Review

In this lesson, we have learnt how to add sensory details to a tension scene.

Differentiation

- **Too hard?** Students use the ideas from the group brainstorm as the basis for writing their tension scene.
- **Too easy?** Students revise and improve their tension scene based on the feedback from their group.

Five + 1 Senses Brainstorming Template

See	Hear
Touch	**Taste**
Smell	**Feel**

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