

Name: _____ Date: _____

EXPLORING THE WRITING PROCESS WITH PRIMARY SOURCE MATERIALS



Lesson Topic: Drafting - Adding Sensory Details

Primary Source: *"The Village Blacksmith," poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, published 1841 in Ballads and Other Poems. 1840. Manuscript/Mixed Material.*

<https://www.loc.gov/item/mcc.033/>.

Directions: Explore the draft to identify the poet’s use of sensory details. Identify the type of sensory detail (smells, sounds, looks, tastes, feels) and complete the chart below.

Image #	Stanza	Type(s) of sensory detail
1	“Under a spreading chestnut tree the village smithy stands; the smith a mighty man is he with large and sweaty hands; and the muscles of his brawn arms are strong as iron bands”	
1	“Week out, week in from morn till night, you can hear his bellows blow; you can hear him swing his heavy sledge with measured beat and slow, like a sexton ringing the old kirk chimes, when the evening sun is low”	
1 - 2	“And children coming home from school look in at the open door, They love to see the flaming forge and hear the bellows roar, And catch the burning sparks that fly like chaff from a threshing floor”	
2	“He goes on Sunday to the church, and sits among his boys; he hears the parson pray and preach, He hears his daughter’s voice singing in the village choir and it makes his heart rejoice”	
2	“It sounds to him like his mother’s voice, Singing in paradise! He needs must think of her once more, How in the grave she lies; and with his hard rough hand he wipes A tear from out his eyes.”	

Would including more types of sensory details make the poem better? Why or why not?

Directions: Now it is your turn to write. Add to the poem in the same style that Longfellow used. Your focus for each stanza is on a type of sensory detail.

Type of Sensory Detail:

Type of Sensory Detail:

Type of Sensory Detail: