December Writer’s Challenge

**The magic and depth of your setting**

**Key Ingredients: Imagination & Detail**

**After a little digging on the Internet, I found a few ideas and prompts to add some sweetness to your writing this holiday season. Your challenge is at the end of this article. ENJOY!**

  

To effectively describe a setting in your writing, use vivid sensory details to engage the reader's senses (sight, sound, smell, taste, touch), incorporating figurative language to create striking imagery, and focus on specific details of the environment that contribute to the overall mood and atmosphere of your story.

Key points to remember when describing a setting:

* **Sensory details:**

Sight: Describe colors, textures, shapes, and patterns of the surroundings.

Sound: Mention ambient noises, music, or specific sounds that contribute to the atmosphere.

Smell: Incorporate scents that are unique to the location.

Touch: Describe how things feel to the touch, like temperature or texture.

Taste: If relevant, include tastes associated with the environment.

* **Figurative language:**

**Similes:** Compare the setting to something familiar using "like" or "as".

**Metaphors:** Directly state that something is something else to create a strong image.

**Personification:** Give human qualities to the setting

* **Consider the perspective:**

Describe the setting through the eyes of your character, reflecting their emotions and interpretations.

Example of a setting description:

"The old, creaky wooden pier stretched out into the murky water, its weathered planks groaning under each step. A thick fog clung to the bay, obscuring the distant shoreline, while the only sound was the rhythmic lapping of waves against the pilings and the mournful cry of a lone seagull circling overhead."

Important aspects to consider when describing a setting:

**Time of day:** Is it dawn, midday, dusk, or night?

**Weather conditions:** Is it sunny, rainy, snowy, windy, etc.?

**Location:** Is it a city, town, rural area, indoors, outdoors, specific landmark?

**Social context:** What is the cultural or historical background of the setting?

**Mood:** How does the setting make the characters feel - tense, peaceful, ominous, etc.?

Your Challenge: In 500 words or less, pick a scene from something you’ve already written. Following the checklist above, how might you alter or add depth to add to your reader’s enjoyment? How much detail and texture is in the description of your scene? Play with this, changing color, time of day, mood, season, or smell. You might want to consider writing in a different voice. Your goal is to capture the essence of the scene; bring it to life.

