

Using Concrete Details for Narratives

- **Effective narrative** essays **allow readers to visualize** everything that's happening, in their minds.
- One way to make sure this occurs is to use concrete, rather than abstract, details.

Concrete Language...	Abstract Language...
...makes the story or image seem clearer and more real to us.	...makes the story or image difficult to visualize.
...gives us information that we can easily grasp and perhaps empathize with.	...leaves your reader feeling empty, disconnected, and possibly confused.

Avoid abstract language—it won't help the reader understand what you're trying to say!

- *Abstract: It was a nice day.*
- **Concrete: The sun was shining and a slight breeze blew across my face.**
- *Abstract: Mr. Smith was a great teacher.*
- **Concrete: Mr. Smith really knew how to help us turn our thoughts into good stories and essays.**
- *Abstract:* _____
- **Concrete:** _____
- *Abstract:* _____
- **Concrete:** _____