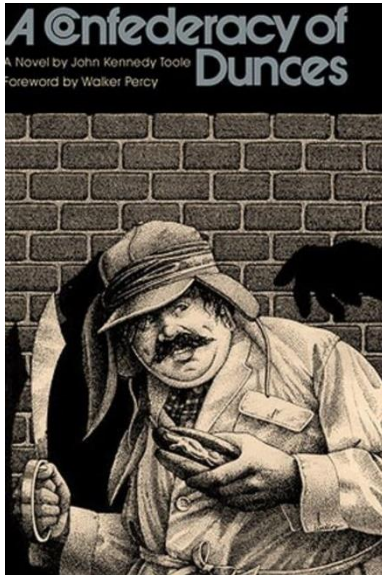


Examples of Descriptive Writing

Example #1

A Confederacy Of Dunces (John Kennedy Toole)



A green hunting cap squeezed the top of the fleshy balloon of a head. The green earflaps, full of large ears and uncut hair and the fine bristles that grew in the ears themselves, stuck out on either side like turn signals indicating two directions at once. Full, pursed lips protruded beneath the bushy black moustache and, at their corners, sank into little folds filled with disapproval and potato chip crumbs. In the shadow under the green visor of the cap Ignatius J. Reilly's supercilious blue and yellow eyes looked down upon the other people waiting under the clock at the D.H. Holmes department store, studying the crowd of people for signs of bad taste in dress. Several of the outfits, Ignatius noticed, were new enough and expensive enough to be properly considered offenses against taste and decency. Possession of anything new or expensive only reflected a person's lack of theology and geometry; it could even cast doubts upon one's soul.

Example #2

Source: Dimaline, Cherie. [The Girl Who Grew a Galaxy](#). Theytus Books, 2013.

"The day Grandpa was to visit, Ruby put on her green gingham dress, the one with the tulips embroidered above the hem. After lunch, a loud station wagon turned in at the bottom of her oil-splotted driveway, rattling and shaking like a wringer washer on three legs. It screeched to a stop and Grandpa unfolded himself out of the front seat. Beside him the car whinnied and growled into geriatric slumber. He pushed out his barrel chest and pointed his bent elbows in towards each other across his wide back, stretching out his stiff limbs. A sand-rough sigh climbed his ribs and dove off his lips, and the ribbon tied around Ruby's head fluttered in the resulting breeze.

Grandpa's hair was inky black streaked with silver grey. He wore it pulled back in an old-man ponytail that curled at its thin end despite being pin-straight up top. His hands were enormous, with fingers that could barely bend from their own girth. To Ruby his teeth seemed as big as playing cards. There were oyster-belly white, even though he woke up in the middle of the night to smoke the same way other people got up for a drink or to pee. Even now there was a cigarette clenched between his lips" (9).

Source: Dimaline, Cherie. [The Girl Who Grew a Galaxy](#). Theytus Books, 2013.

Example #3

Lake Okanagan is a great place to swim and relax. In the summer, the water is as warm as a bathtub and clean enough to drink, and the beaches are large enough to accommodate groups of people seeking relief from a midsummer scorcher. In addition to swimming, visitors to the lake can go canoeing, sailing, windsurfing, or fishing. The blue placid water is a refreshing, tempting sight. The sweet scent of sun block wafts through the air from sunbathers lying on the beach. Children laugh and splash in the water, and nearby volleyball games stir passionate shouts in the heat of competition. Meanwhile lifeguards sit atop their white towers like army generals and make sure everyone is safe. In the distance, sail boats catch the soft breezes that ripple Lake Okanagan's surface, and canoeists glide quietly past. This is what summer is all about!