**Charting Imagery**

**Directions:** Review the definition of imagery and the examples below. With a partner, complete the chart with images you might use to describe each of the listed experiences.

Poets use effective imagery, language that appeals to the senses, as a tool in achieving intensity in their work. An image communicates sight, sound, smell, taste, or touch sensation.

**Just Imagine**

For example, the following images might be used to describe a stroll on a summer night:

*Sight-*a full moon, partially obscured by a band of clouds

*Sound-*the chirp of a cricket

*Taste-*sipping lemonade as I walk

*Touch-*fresh rain on the grass soaking through my tennis shoes

*Smell-*clean smell of pine trees mixed with the sweetness of rose

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sense | Visiting an Amusement Park or Circus | Witnessing a Robbery or Traffic Accident | Playing Basketball or Tennis |
| Sound  Taste  Touch  Smell  Sight |  |  |  |

**Capturing Images in Poems**

**Directions:** Read each of these three poems carefully. Consider the title, read each several times, notice punctuation and sentences/phrases, note repetition and contrast, and identify the speaker and her or his purpose. Make notes in margin of your hand out. Then identify the images in each poem, and explain how they contribute to the effect of the poem on the reader. Be prepared to discuss your ideas in class. **For homework, write a full paragraph that explains how the images create meaning in ONE of the poems; use at least three concrete details (quoted images in the poem) to support your explanation.**

**Sunday Afternoon**

After the First Communion

and the banquet of mangoes and

bridal cake, the young daughters

of the coffee merchant lay down

for a long siesta, and their white dresses

lay beside them in quietness

and the white veils floated

in their dreams as the flies buzzed.

But as the afternoon

burned to a close they rose

and ran about the neighborhood

among the halfbuilt villas

alive, alive, kicking a basketball, wearing

other new dresses, of bloodred velvet.

−Denise Levertov

**College Formal: Renaissance Casino**

Golden girl

in a golden gown

in a melody night

in Harlem town

lad tall and brown

tall and wise

college boys smart

eyes in eyes

the music wraps

them both around

in mellow magic

of dancing sound

till they’re the heart

of the whole big town

gold and brown

−Langston Hughes

**Harlem Sweeties**

Have you dug the spill

Of Sugar Hill?

Cast your gims

On this sepia thrill:

Brown sugar lassie, 5

Caramel treat,

Honey-golf baby

Sweet enough to eat.

Peach-skinned girlie,

Coffee and cream, 10

Chocolate darling

Out of a dream.

Walnut tinted

Or cocoa brown,

Pomegranate lipped 15

Pride of the town.

Rich cream colored

To plum tinted black,

Feminine sweetness

In Harlem’s no lack. 20

Glow of quince

To blush of rose.

Persimmon bronze

To cinnamon toes.

Blackberry cordial 25

Virginia Dare wine—

All those sweet colors

Flavor Harlem of mine!

Walnut or cocoa,

Let me repeat: 30

Caramel, brown sugar,

a chocolate treat.

Molasses taffy,

Coffee and cream,

Licorice, clove, cinnamon 35

To a honey-brown dream.

Ginger, wine-gold,

Persimmon, blackberry,

All through the spectrum

Harlem girls vary— 40

So if you want to know beauty’s

Rainbow-sweet thrill,

Stroll down luscious,

Delicious, *fine* Sugar Hill.

−Langston Hughes