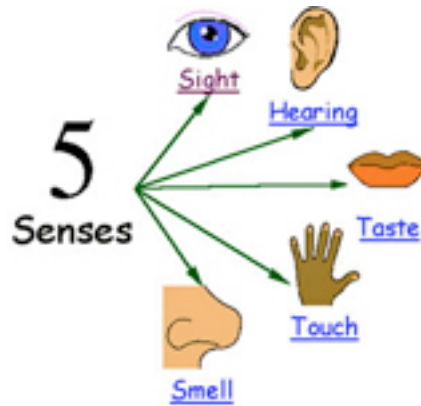


THE FIVE SENSES

by Donny Seagraves



SIGHT - Visual details in your story. Words on the page of a book you're reading. The movement of leaves as you walk. Your mother's face.

Here's an example from chapter one, page 3 of **Gone From These Woods**. Daniel and Uncle Clay are heading across a meadow, toward their family woods, to go rabbit hunting. Daniel is looking at his surroundings and thinking. "Up ahead, I saw the sun, a glowing ball of light, spreading its yellow-orange color over the treetops."

HEARING - The sounds of the ocean as waves break on the shore. Music from your iPod. Rain on the tin roof.

An example from chapter one, page 6 of **GFTW**: "Mitzi?" Clay laughed so loud he upset a whole neighborhood of birds in the tree branches, making them twitter and squawk and flutter their wings."

TASTE - Hot chocolate with whipped cream. Spicy pizza. Minty toothpaste in the morning.

An example from chapter one of **GFTW**: "Clay gave me a sharp look. "What you mean, 'gross'? Fried rabbit is one of the top delicacies of the world. Can't you smell it already? And taste it? All warm and crispy and melt-in-your-mouth delicious? Life don't get much better than that."

How many senses were in that short passage of GFTW? (Clay's sharp look = sight. Can't you smell = smell. And taste it, all warm and crispy and melt-in-your-mouth delicious? = taste. So the answer is three. Could you work hearing and touch into this scene as well? Try rewriting this short passage and include all five senses, if you can.

TOUCH (OR FEELING) - The soft fur on your cat's head. Cold, powdery snow. Rough bark on a tree trunk.

Here's an example from **GFTW**, chapter twelve, pages 94 - 95, that illustrates both taste and touch (or feelings). "I felt the corners of my mouth twitch, then turn up slightly as I pinched off a bite of fried chicken and stuffed it into my mouth. Chewing it real slow. Mashing it real good with my teeth. Feeling its grease on the roof of my mouth. It tasted better than I thought it would."

SMELL - The aroma of chicken soup simmering in the pot on the stove. Woodsmoke from a neighbor's chimney. A skunk.

An example from chapter ten, page 7 of **GFTW**: "Mom popped the turkey in the microwave first. I was surprised by how good it smelled."

