

# What is the function of imagery in literature?

**Imagery** in literature is the use of descriptive words and language that help readers make mental pictures of parts of the story. These words appeal to your emotions, senses...

“**Imagery** refers to language that stimulates the reader’s senses. By evoking those senses through touch, taste, sound, smell, and sight, the writer imparts a deeper understanding of the human experience, connecting with the reader through a shared sensory experience.”—www.writers.com

“Of course, good **imagery** is not merely descriptive. I could tell you that “the wallpaper is yellow,” and yes, that counts as visual **imagery**, but it’s hardly describing *the experience of that wallpaper*. Is the wallpaper bright and cheerful? Does it lift your mood, or darken it?”—www.writers.com

## Example of Imagery

“The color is *repellant*, almost *revolting*, a smouldering unclean yellow, strangely faded by the slow-turning sunlight. It is a dull yet lurid orange in some places, a sickly sulphur tint in others. *No wonder the children*

*hated it! I should hate it myself* if I had to live in this room long.”—Excerpt from “The Yellow Wallpaper” by Charlotte Perkins Gilman (1860 – 1935)

“Take note of how the visual **imagery** (bolded) shows you the wallpaper’s various colors and stains. When paired with the narrator’s tone (italicized), we form an image of bleak, depressing paper, far from the cheerful yellowness you might expect.”—

www.writers.com

**Reference:** <https://writers.com/imagery-definition>