

We came on the wind of the carnival. A warm wind for February, laden with the hot greasy scents of frying pancakes and sausage and powdery-sweet waffles cooked on the hotplate right there by the roadside, with the confetti sleeting down collars and cuffs and rolling in the gutters.

Opening of *Chocolat* by Joanne Harris

A chair, a table, a lamp. Above, on the white ceiling, a relief ornament in the shape of a wreath and in the centre of it a blank space, plastered over, like the place in a face where the eye has been taken out. There must have been a chandelier once. They've removed anything you could tie a rope to.

From *The Handmaid's Tale* Margaret Atwood

Exercise: think of a character going into an unfamiliar place for the first time and describe what they would smell hear taste and feel. Make word lists that combine colour taste and smell (eg orange, mint, apple, ginger – food based words that can be adjectives and nouns. Or you can use textural words like flaky, steaming, velvety, pebbled.

Exercises –

- 1. take a city you know well. Think of three landmarks. Write a story that begins and ends at that landmark.**
- 2. Think of a place from childhood you know well and disliked. Write a scene from the pov of a character who lives there.**
- 3. Go on google earth find a place you've never been before and chose a particular vantage point. Write a scene from the POV of a character who wants out of that particular place.**

Exercise: think of an object that's important to a character. Have them lose that object and try to find it. Have a scene where you show a character making or repairing something.