

Detail (facts, observations, and incidents) is used to develop a topic, shaping and seasoning voice.

Detail #1

Read and think:

I used to like going to have my hair cut. I liked the mirrors in the room and all the smells of lotions and shampoos. I liked to sit there—young and fresh and pretty—and see what the women were having done, to make themselves look younger and prettier. I liked the way my mother's hairdresser teased me about boyfriends and dances. Not anymore, though. Somebody held the door open so my mother could wheel me in, and a few people who had met me came around to say how sorry they were.

Cynthia Voigt, *Izzy, Willy-Nilly*

Talk about it:

① Which details support the attitude that the narrator used to like having her hair cut? Underline those details and talk about their effectiveness.

② Which detail changes the direction of the passage? Note that the narrator's reason for not liking haircuts anymore is not explained. Nevertheless, you know what has happened. What effect does that have on you, the reader?