

Detail ⑦

NAME: _____

DATE: ____/____/____

PERIOD: # ____ WEEK: ____

Consider:

The dog stood up and growled like a lion, stiff-standing hackles, teeth uncovered as he lashed up his fury for the charge. Tea Cake split the water like an otter, opening his knife as he dived. The dog raced down the back-bone of the cow to the attack and Janie screamed and slipped far back on the tail of the cow, just out of reach of the dog's angry jaws.

— Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

Discuss:

1. Which details reveal that the dog has rabies? What effect do these details have on the reader?
2. Contrast the details used to describe Tea Cake (the male protagonist) and Janie (the female protagonist). What do these details reveal about the author's attitude toward these two characters?

Apply:

3. Think of two contrasting characters. Write a sentence for each showing their reaction to a fight. Do not explain the different reactions; instead, show the different reactions through use of detail. Share your sentences with the class.

Detail ⑧

Consider:

MRS. VENABLE: . . . and the sand all alive, all alive, as the hatched sea-turtles made their dash for the sea, while the birds hovered and swooped to attack and hovered and – swooped to attack! They were diving down on the hatched sea-turtles, turning them over to expose their soft undersides, tearing the undersides open and rending and eating their flesh.

— Tennessee Williams, *Suddenly Last Summer*

Discuss:

1. Williams uses the repetition of detail in three places in this passage. Underline the three places and discuss whether the repetition enhances or detracts from the overall effect of the passage.
2. What is Mrs. Venable's attitude toward the scene she describes? Which specific details reveal this attitude?

Apply:

3. With a partner write a detailed description of a sporting event. Emphasize some violent or extreme action by repeating at least two vivid details. Try to create a feeling of revulsion through your choice of details. Share your description with the class.