

## Detail ⑬

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

PERIOD: # \_\_\_\_

WEEK: \_\_\_\_;

### Consider:

Until I returned to Cuba, I never realized how many blues exist. The aquamarines near the shoreline, the azures of deeper waters, the eggshell blues beneath my grandmother's eyes, the fragile indigos tracking her hands. There's a blue, too, in the curves of the palms, and the edges of the words we speak, a blue tinge to the sand and the seashells and the plump gulls on the beach. The mole by Abuela's mouth is also blue, a vanishing blue.

— Cristina Garcia, *Dreaming in Cuban*

### Discuss:

1. The narrator details the blues of the landscape and the blues of her grandmother (Abuela). What connection is revealed by this juxtaposition of images?
2. Why is the last *blue* in the passage a *vanishing blue*?

### Apply:

3. Choose a color and describe a scene using at least three varieties of that color. Try to mix details of landscape and people. Share your description with the class.

## Detail ⑭

### Consider:

How fine it is to enter some old town, walled and turreted, just at approach of nightfall, or to come to some straggling village, with the lights streaming through the surrounding gloom; and then, after inquiring for the best entertainment that the place affords, to "take one's ease at one's inn"!

— William Hazlitt, "On Going a Journey"

### Discuss:

1. What details support the generalization, *how fine it is*?
2. What feelings are evoked by the details of the town (*old, walled, turreted*)? How does this selection of detail communicate Hazlitt's attitude toward the town?

### Apply:

3. Imagine going to a motel after a long day on the road. The motel is the only place to sleep in town, and the next town is 200 miles away. The motel is old and dirty; your room is shabby and dark. Plan a brief monologue which expresses your attitude toward this room. Include specific references to the details that both produce and reveal your attitude. Perform your monologue for the class.

## Detail ⑮

### Consider:

She was wearing her usual at-home vesture. . . . It consisted mostly of a hoary midnight-blue Japanese kimono. She almost invariably wore it through the apartment during the day. With its many occultish-looking folds, it also served as the repository for the paraphernalia of a very heavy cigarette smoker and an amateur handyman; two oversized pockets had been added at the hips, and they usually contained two or three packs of cigarettes, several match folders, a screwdriver, a claw-end hammer, a Boy Scout knife that had once belonged to one of her sons, and an enamel faucet handle or two, plus an assortment of screws, nails, hinges, and ball-bearing casters – all of which tended to make Mrs. Glass chink faintly as she moved about in her large apartment.

— J. D. Salinger, *Franny and Zooey*

### Discuss:

1. What does the detail in this passage reveal about Mrs. Glass's character? In other words, how does the detail give you a picture of her looks and insight into her character?
2. How would the meaning of the fourth sentence (*With its many . . .*) be different without the detail that follows the semicolon?

### Apply:

3. Sketch a picture of Mrs. Glass. Include in your sketch the details from the passage that you think are most expressive of the author's attitude toward Mrs. Glass.

## Detail ⑩

### Consider:

In fact right behind her Gabriel could be seen piloting Freddy Malins across the landing. The latter, a young man of about forty, was of Gabriel's size and build, with very round shoulders. His face was fleshy and pallid, touched with colour only at the thick hanging lobes of his ears and at the wide wings of his nose. He had coarse features, a blunt nose, a convex and receding brow, tumid and protruded lips. His heavy-lidded eyes and the disorder of his scanty hair made him look sleepy.

— James Joyce, "The Dead"

### Discuss:

1. Joyce uses many specific details to describe Freddy's physical appearance. Fill in the chart below and indicate (✓) whether each detail is objective (making an observation) or evaluative (making a judgment).

Detail	Objective	Evaluative

2. What is Joyce's attitude toward Freddy? Which specific details reveal this attitude?

### Apply:

3. Write a paragraph describing a character's personality by describing his/her physical traits. Do not make any direct statements about his/her personality or character. Instead, use detail about appearance to capture character. Read your paragraph to a partner and discuss which physical traits are stereotypes and which traits are valid indications of character.