**Imagery**

Imagery is the use of words to create a sensory experience. Imagery uses the five senses to making writing more interesting. Imagery captures in words what we **see**, what we **hear**, what we **touch**, what we **smell**, and what we **taste**.

**Examine the following excerpts:**

1. Something warm was running across the back of her hands. She saw with mounting horror that it was mixed slime and blood running from the dog’s mouth. -Stephen King, *Cujo*
2. Underline the images. What kind of imagery is used in this passage? Which of the senses is being used?
3. How does the imagery in this passage help create the horror of the situation?

**Now you try it:**

Pretend your best friend just threw up. You are helping your friend and you accidentally touch the vomit. Think about what it feels like. Using King’s sentence as a model, write at least two sentences describing the experience.

1. The camels move on, their only sound the kachinnik, kachinnik of their bracelets, the gentle thong of their bells, and the creaking of goat hair cords against their wooden saddles.

-Suzanne Fisher Staples, *Shabanu, Daughter of the Wind*

1. Underline the images. What kind of imagery is used in this passage? Which of the senses is being used?
2. Imitate the sounds captured by these words: *kachinnik, thong, creaking*. How do these words bring the reader into the experience of the passage?

**Now you try it:**

Think of a scene that includes very clear, vivid sounds. Now describe the scene to partner. Your partner should write down *one especially effective* sound image from your description. Switch with your partner and repeat this activity. Share the sound image with the class.