

FEEL OF THE DAY PROSE PARAGRAPH



ACTIVITY GUIDE



EPISODE 115: A GREEN MICHIGAN

1. Read Mr. Kass' example on the next page.
2. Circle specific sensory words that connect to the five senses.
3. Write down some notes about whatever is occupying your brain today. What are you worried about? What are you excited about? What's confusing you?
4. Go outside and take some notes about your immediate surroundings. What can you see, hear, or smell? What does your body feel?
5. Then, take your notes about what's going on inside your head and what the outside world feels like and write your own paragraph that tries to explore the overall "feel of the day." Try to use as many details that connect to the five senses as you can.

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JEFF KASS

Feel of the Day, Riverside Park, Ypsilanti

The sky today, after last night's rain, feels gray with sorrow. Kids run through the playground, laughing and shouting in several different languages. One boy chases his giggling sister the wrong way up a slide and they nearly collide with another giggling boy on his way down. Past the trees, some of which look plump like dark green marshmallows and others thin and light-colored like sticks of gum, kayakers scatter across the river. Their paddles dip out of their red and yellow plastic boats so they look like spiders skittering across the water. Parents and children laugh as they splash. It's true, I'm worried about my son playing baseball in South Dakota, about my daughter packing her suitcase for a trip to Costa Rica, about whether I'll have enough time to take my dog for a walk before it rains tonight and, speaking of rain, I also worry about whether the changing climate will bring a bunch of dangerous hurricanes this summer. Still, listen to the laughter drifting through this moist air as burgers and bratwurst sizzle on the park's community grill. Tune in to the delighted squeals of children as they kick a soccer ball. The ground beneath my feet is soft, unsteady, always slightly shifting. I can shift too and figure out how to slow down and enjoy the moment and not stress out over things I can't control.