

## The Throwing Nets

(Page numbers refer to Scholastic edition)

'Lyra walked delicately through it all, her senses magnified and mingled with Pantalaimon's ...'

Richly textured language builds distinctively detailed pictures of scenes. Philip Pullman often achieves this by appealing to the senses.

- Read from the beginning of the chapter on page 99 to half way down page 100: '*... she went up to the counter and reached up to gain the owner's attention*'.
- As you read, note how Pullman's language appeals to different senses by filling in the chart below. Two examples have been done for you.

**Sight:**

*Pantalaimon became a wildcat and scanned the dark all around with his night-piercing eyes.*

**Sound:**

**Taste:**

**Smell:**

**Touch:**

*In that cold night*

## Now you are going to try this style out for yourself ...

by describing a scene in as much detail as possible.

1) Choose one from the following places:

- a fairground
- the beach on a hot summer's day
- a busy restaurant kitchen
- a party (Christmas, birthday, Halloween, or any other)
- sports day
- or a suitably 'sensual' scene of your own devising.

2) First, copy out the sense chart onto A4 paper.

3) Then fill it in, using as much detail as you can. See below for an example based on a hotel kitchen.

**Sight:** sweating chefs in once-white uniforms

**Sound:** pans clashing, knives chopping, everyone shouting

**Smell:** a medley of delicious smells, as if someone had taken the lid off a magic pot in which every dinner imaginable was cooking

**Taste:** savoury flavours mix with steamy spirals, hang in the air and land on the tongue

**Touch:** flames shoot out from under incandescent frying pans – it's hotter than Hades in here

4) Make sure you use interesting adjectives, striking nouns and verbs and include some similes, metaphors and onomatopoeic words.

5) Finally, write up your descriptive piece using the third person, but choose the tense you wish to write in.