

Lesson Two

A Strange Universe

Objective:

To understand how writers create setting

Extract:

A light flashed green on the control panel. I was just thinking that at least it was green and not red when the bleat of an alarm reminded me that in Zorbon's topsy-turvy universe red and green were reversed. Uh-oh. I glanced at the floating display. The symbol depicting my tiny craft was heading rapidly towards a big dark circle in space. Now, wasn't there another name for an enormously dark space circle?

Black Hole!

I wrenched the control stick to one side in an effort to miss the giant cosmic dustbin. I felt the craft turn and figures on the display confirmed a change of direction. It looked like I would avoid catastrophe but it was going to be close. I held my breath as I skirted the edge of the gaping hole. Time seemed to slow as I looked up through the canopy into a throat of endless darkness. It was blacker than the Chislehurst Caves I'd begged Dad to take me to when I was little.

Task 1:

1. Underline any powerful words that stand out to you in the extract.
2. Underline as many ADJECTIVES as you can.
3. Underline as many ADVERBS as you can.

Task 2:

Can you match the following senses to a phrase in the paragraph? Which sense might be missing? Could you add it in?

SIGHT**SOUND****SMELL****TOUCH****TASTE**

Task 3:

Now it's your turn! Write one paragraph to describe a universe or setting far, far away. Think about the things you can see, smell, taste, hear and touch. Don't forget to use powerful words, adjectives and adverbs and to use plenty of sensory description.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal blue lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, typical of notebook paper or a template for writing. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.