

Imagining: Storytelling 2

Aim of the exercise:

To experiment with the effect of colour on a narrative

Try the Storytelling 1 exercise again with the following modifications:

Begin your description of the story by describing the scene in black and white or muted tones.

When you have written your opening, muted description, begin to bring colour into your narrative. It is up to you how you do this.

You could highlight a single colour throughout the piece (think of Stephen Spielberg's use of the little girl's red coat in his film 'Schindler's List').

You could begin in pale tones and open out into full colour description (think of the way Kansas is filmed in black and white and Oz in technicolour in 'The Wizard of Oz').



'Crowded street scene in Lahore'
by William Carpenter, 1855
Museum no. IS.53-1882

The Film Camera

Imagine that your eye is like a film camera travelling around the scene:

- sometimes it comes into close up, describing a detail.
- sometimes it is in wide shot (panorama) depicting the scene as a whole.

How does the addition of colour alter your narrative?

Was it harder to write in colour, or black and white?