

SCENE Visual Imagery Strategy

S = Search for picture words.

Note as I read the passage below, I paused after a few lines that had good descriptive information. Looking at the following passage, the pictures that I image in the first three to five lines are of a mother talking to her son and of a step not made of crystal but containing tacks, splinters, and torn boards. Notice the words or groups of words in the text that helped me imagine a picture about the characters, setting, or actions: “mother,” “son,” “stair,” “no crystal,” “tacks,” “splinters,” “boards,” and “torn up.”

Mother to Son

by Langston Hughes

Well, son, I'll tell you:

Life for me ain't been no crystal stair.

It's had tacks in it,

And splinters,

And boards torn up,

And places with no carpet on the floor—

Bare.

C = Create or change the scene.

The scene in which those I image those pictures are near the staircase in the mother's home.

E = Enter lots of “details.”

Details to the pictures I image include as follows: (1) the mother is over 60 years old (2) with deep wrinkles in her face and (3) a back bent from years of labor (4) sitting in her row house (5) near the central staircase made of (6) warped and worn (7) wooden boards that are tacked together and have splinters and (8) holes with her (9) son who is over 25 years old and (10) taller than his mother..

N = Name the parts.

To name the parts, I must name

- 1) the scene,
- 2) two parts of the scene,
- 3) what is happening in the scene, and
- 4) three details that I ass that relates to the picture words and action/events happening in the scene.

Accordingly, the poem occurs (the scene) near the staircase in the mother's home where (first part of scene) a conversation between a mother and her grown son is occurring (second part of scene) in which the mother is comparing her life to a step of the staircase which is made if warped, worn, torn up, wooden boards that are tacked together and have splinters.

E = Evaluate your picture.

My picture is accurate, makes sense, and includes everything I need to retain and recall my mental picture of the first few lines of the poem.