

Passages to Practise Visualisation

You can use these passages in two ways:

- As an introduction to help you both investigate the qualities of the images that the student is creating as you read to them.
- As a way of stimulating and training the mind to create images from the written word.

You can read these out, stopping after one or two sentences to ask your student to describe what images they have created in their mind's eye.

Remember to get yourselves grounded!

Ideal Qualities for Images

Actually, as long as the student is able to create relevant and helpful images to enable them to recall information, there is no particular 'ideal' set of qualities. What is important is the end result – are they working for the particular student?

Some students will have very clear, detailed images, while others might only have a vague sense of the character, setting, plot or information. Some might be in colour, others in black and white. There is no right or wrong – just whether they are effective.

The main problems are either no images or too many and you can work with your student to either get more details or fewer, more clarity etc.

Fiction

You can have a discussion about the situations: what happened just before and what might happen next.

Can they describe the characters and places? How much detail can they imagine?

- 1 *All of a sudden, Jack stopped still. He pressed his nose up against the window to get a closer look. In the shop window, there were three gorgeous puppies. One was black and white and jumping up and down. Another, which was smaller and all white was curled up asleep. The third one was all black and was sitting completely still, looking up at him with big, brown eyes.*
- 2 *Lori drew her sword. The dragon swished its tail and nearly sent her flying against the wall of the cave. She lashed out with her sword, but the dragon just laughed.*
- 3 *"I don't want to go!" KP stamped his foot and looked up at his mother with tears in*

his eyes. His face was getting redder and redder. He took off his shoes and threw them back into the cupboard.

- 4 *A small square parcel, wrapped in newspaper, sat outside the front door. Newspaper? Molly frowned. Really good birthday gifts didn't come wrapped in newspaper. She poked at it with her toe. "Oh well, better get it over with." She picked up the parcel and ripped off the wrapping.*

Underneath, Molly discovered a box with an oh-so-familiar logo. "It can't be!" Off came the lid. "YES!" Happiness fizzed through her. She might just explode like a shaken pop can. The card inside said it all. "Happy birthday, kiddo. Hope the wrapping put you off the scent for a bit. Love and hugs, Grandpa." The box held a new phone! The latest! The grin stayed on Molly's face all day.

(Adapted from a passage by Margot Finke)

Non-fiction

Taken from <https://www.readworks.org> This is a very useful site which offers free reading resources.

- 1 Volcanoes are openings on the surface of the earth that can send lava (melted rock), gas, and steam into the air. You may have seen volcanoes that look like mountains with openings at the top. Many volcanoes look like that. But others appear more flat.
- 2 Do you want to see a butterfly flutter by your garden? Then you should plant a lot of flowers. Butterflies like sunny gardens and colourful flowers. They drink the sweet juice that is in the flowers. Butterflies taste the juice with their feet. They sip the juice with a tube that is on their head. They use the tube like a straw. You might see butterflies in the spring, summer, and fall. Happy butterfly watching!
- 3 If you look up at the sky on a clear night, you may see a red dot among the stars. This dot is Mars, named in ancient times after the Roman god of war. Although no one has ever visited this red planet, we know a lot about it.
Mars is more like Earth than any other planet in our solar system. Mars has a 24-hour day, a rocky crust, canyons, volcanoes, polar ice caps, and seasons. But Earth and Mars are actually very different.
Mars is half as big as Earth and has less gravity. It has very little atmosphere. The surface of Mars has no lakes or oceans, plants or animals. No place on Earth gets as cold as Mars. The lack of life on the surface of Mars isn't surprising, considering the bone-dry environment.

- 4 Vikings were not only fierce pirates; they were also the best shipbuilders of their time. Their masterful wooden ships were perfect for warfare. They were faster and stronger than those of other cultures. Water travel was the primary means of transportation for the Vikings.

Viking ships are easy to identify because of their unique shape. The aerodynamic design starts and ends with a tall point at either end. But what made Viking ships sail better than the rest was something they developed called a keel. A keel is a long, narrow piece of wood that runs along the bottom of a boat. Like a fin, it cuts into the water and helps keep the ship steady so it can go faster. The keel also makes it easier to steer the ship.