

# Secrets From Great Writers!

## **THIS MONTH'S SECRET: USE THE FIVE SENSES**

In the article "Great White Terror," Peter Benchley uses the five senses to write amazing descriptions. You would swear that you are right there with him looking a great white shark in the eye. In this activity, you will see how Mr. Benchley writes his descriptions. You will then write your own using his secret technique.

**Directions:** Read the passage below, from "Great White Terror," by Peter Benchley. Then follow the prompt below.

In "Great White Terror," Peter Benchley describes what it's like to be in the middle of the ocean ready to confront a great white shark. Instead of just writing, "It was sort of gross and scary down there in the water," he creates an amazingly vivid scene that comes alive in the readers mind."

### **Mr. Benchley Writes:**

Blinded by blood, nauseated by the smell of fish guts, whale oil, and rotten horseflesh, I gripped the aluminum bars of the shark cage. I tried to steady myself against the violent jolts as the cage was tossed by the choppy sea. The water was cold, and I shivered. . . . I had expected to find silence underwater, but my breath roared like wind in a tunnel as I inhaled through my regulator. My exhales gurgled noisily, like bubbles being blown through a straw in a drink.

**Mr. Benchley's Trick:** Notice that he uses four of the five senses—what he sees, hears, smells, and touches—to describe the scene.

### **TRY IT!**

Write a paragraph describing a hot and humid day in your town.

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