

Unit 5

Name: _____

Date: _____

Thinking About Words

Descriptive Language

Selection: The Case of the Ruby Earrings

Writers use descriptive language to help draw their readers into a story. Readers use the words, their imaginations, and their experiences to feel and understand the mood, and to create pictures in their minds. Words can create moods that are suspenseful, sombre, calm, or mystical.

1. Use the organizer to record words and phrases from your stories.
2. Remember to look for words and phrases that help you
 - feel the mood.
 - create pictures in your mind.

	Words and phrases from the story that...	Other words and phrases the author could have used to...
establish mood:	In an uproar; earrings were so valuable; burglary took place at midnight; burglar jimmied the lock on the window; pinching pennies but buying ruby earrings.	
create pictures:	Dog's name is Fang; vicious bite; bark loud enough to wake anyone.	