**Sensory Details**

Example: *Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt* by Kate Messner/Christopher Silas Neal

“Spring sun shines down

to melt the sleepy snow.

Wind whistles through

last year’s plants, and mud

sucks at my rain boots.”

**Touch**:

Velvet, silk, flower petals,

plush carpeting, warm quilts,

raindrops on roses, whiskers on kittens, the breeze on your face,

the cool water as you jump in a swimming pool, the pulsing warmth of a crackling fire, smooth steel, rough burlap, soft, taffeta, linen, cotton.

**Taste**:

salty tears, the ocean, that tiny drop that you gently pull from a honey- suckle blossom, honey, honeycomb,

whipped cream, mocha, chocolate fudge, tender steak, creamy sauces,

special spices, cinnamon, cardamom, wine, hot chocolate on a chilly evening, fresh coffee on a lazy Saturday morning, birthday cake, candy canes, all your favorite foods.

**Hear**:

a lilting soprano, a soft harp or somber cello, whispy ballads, sentimental songs from childhood,

patriotic tunes that give you a warm fuzzy feeling or make you want to bow before a queen, the afternoon breeze as it crisps the sheets hanging on the clothesline, cicadas buzzing on a hot summer day, bees buzzing over flower blossoms.

**Smell**:

seawater/seaweed, hot dogs roasting on an outdoor fire, the smoke curling upward, cotton candy swirling around

as they place it on the stick, cinnamon rolls, gardenia bushes, honeysuckle, evergreen trees at Christmas, bubbly wassail cooking on the stove, turkey dinner fresh from the oven fresh mown grass, sweaty babies, wet dog.

**See**:

sunrise/sunset – all the nuanced hues,

rainbows, swaying trees of varying greens, blossoming flowers, colorful quilts, cute puppies and kittens,

antique furniture, churches, synagogues, cathedrals with stained glass windows, city skylines, country roads, stones skipping across a pond,

waterfalls, rich jewel tones, soft pastels.

**Experience the intangible**:

Remember these feelings to get in touch with “heart” and use it in your stories.

Falling in love, watching a sunset, looking out from the top of a mountain, seeing a waterfall, singing the national anthem and feeling patriotic, graduating from high school or college and feeling accomplished, getting married, having a baby, adopting a baby, sending a child off to school for the first time, watching a child take his first steps, getting an agent, getting your first book deal!

Access your joy, and put it on the page!