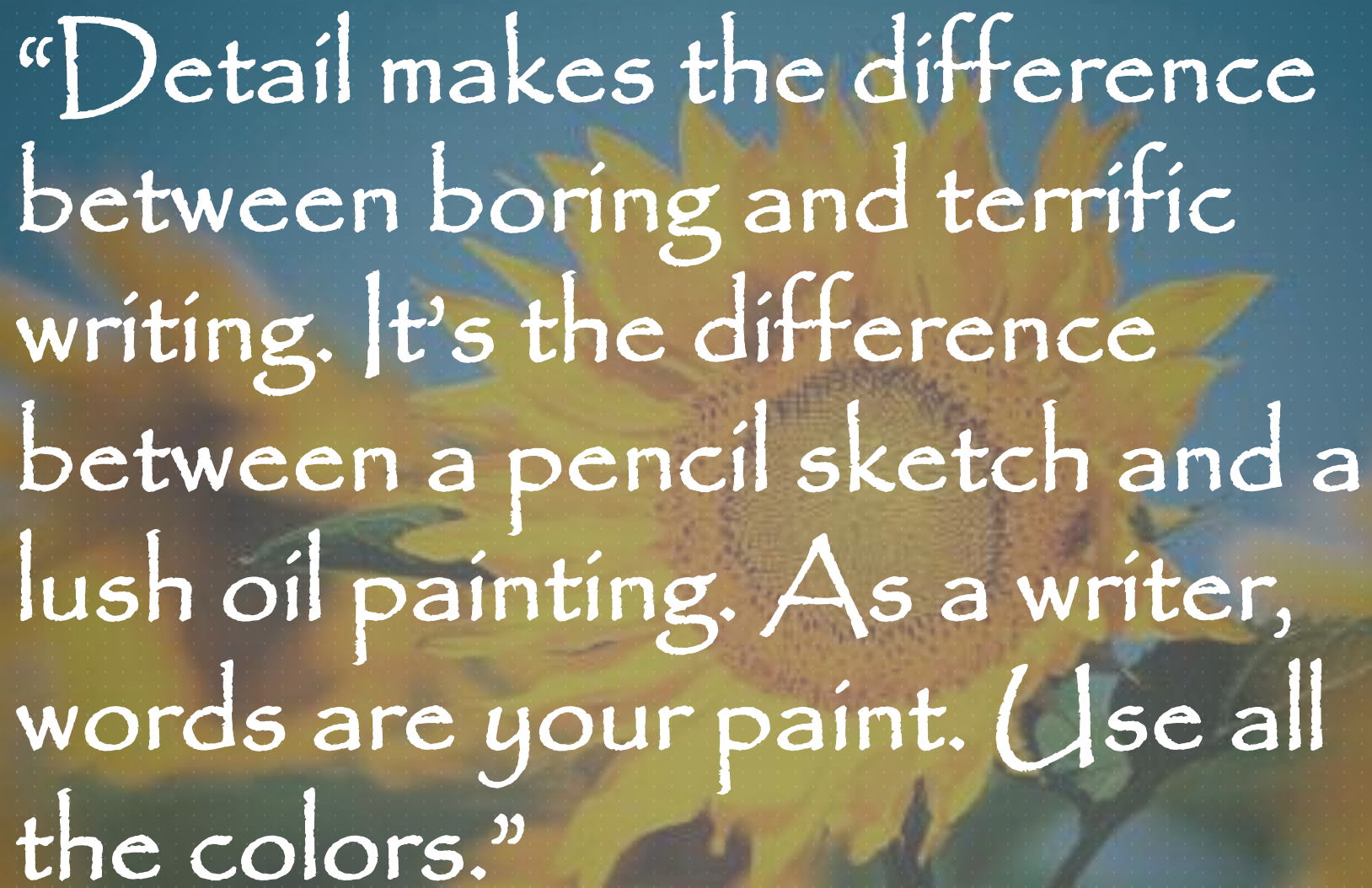


DESCRIPTIVE WRITING





“Detail makes the difference between boring and terrific writing. It’s the difference between a pencil sketch and a lush oil painting. As a writer, words are your paint. Use all the colors.”

- Rhys Alexander

DESCRIPTIVE WRITING TOOLS

- **Sense Impressions**
- **Spatial Order**
- **Dominant Impression**

SENSE IMPRESSIONS

- **Sight**
- **Hearing**
- **Smell**
- **Taste**
- **Touch**

SPATIAL ORDER

Shows the layout of anything that takes up space. Use spatial order to present physical objects in a way that makes sense: bottom to top, left to right, background to foreground, outside to inside – in short, in any organized fashion.

- above
- ahead
- around
- behind
- beside
- between
- beyond
- by
- down
- east
- in
- left
- near
- next to
- north
- on
- over
- overhead
- right
- south
- toward
- under
- underfoot
- west

DOMINANT IMPRESSION

- **Description more than a tangle of unrelated details**
- **Details should convey a single dominant impression**

EXAMPLES

- **Wells Fargo Bank building on Richmond Road looks dignified.**
- **Central Mall parking lot the day before Christmas resembles a battle zone.**

DOMINANT IMPRESSIONS

- bleak
- chaotic
- cheerful
- colorful
- cozy
- eerie
- elegant
- gloomy
- lonely
- serene
- shabby
- orderly
- busy
- upbeat
- graceful

THESIS

- Limited topic + specific focus
= thesis
- PLACE or PERSON described
+ dominant impression
= thesis