

# 30

## Figuratively envisioning a place

### Goal

*This exercise should evoke the students' internal perception and imagination of a plot or mood. The readers' internal perception is an important element in terms of understanding a text. At the same time, many students have difficulties imagining places, people, or moods if they do not receive already completed pictures of them.*

1<sup>st</sup>–9<sup>th</sup> grade

45 minutes



Materials:  
Story or a narrative  
(if possible 2–3 texts  
for various levels).

### Procedure:

- The teacher reads a story to the class. This can involve the entire class, if a story is appropriate for all age-levels, otherwise it requires different age-specific stories.
- The class as a whole (or in different age and competence levels) summarizes the content, and questions about understanding are clarified. With complex texts, a copy may be provided beforehand so that students can recap the content once more for themselves.
- With their eyes closed, the students have to imagine an important place of action in this story, as if it were a film. Questions like the following (in this case involving a room in a story that was read to them) may help in this imagination process:
  - Are there windows?
  - Where is the door located?
  - What kind of furniture is there?
  - Is the room dark, is the light on, or is there daylight in the room?
  - Are there pictures on the walls?
  - How do you feel when you're in this room; why?
- After a few minutes when all students should have completed their internal pictures, the students draw a plan of the room or describe in writing how they imagine this room, or how they would feel being in this room.
- The students then seek out a partner to discuss their results and receive additional time to review their assignments and clarify ambiguities, if needed.
- Finally, the texts and drawings are compared and discussed by the class as a whole.

### Variants:

- The exercise should be repeated various times.
- It can also be adapted and modified in terms of moods and emotions or the persons involved (instead of just the room).

