

Below is the writer's palette I created before I wrote the excerpt. (You'll notice how some of the details were used to paint the scene and some were left out. Still, it was useful for to have the entire spectrum so I could portray the scene with realism.) However, some of the details were left for the scene that followed.

5 W'S:

Where?: Sullivan's Bar & Grill

What?: Shelby wanted to surprise Cassie because she knew she wouldn't want to go if she mentioned it. And she thinks she deserves it ... and she really likes James.

Who?: Cassie, James, Shelby

When?: Friday evening ... like 6pm

Why?: Shelby thinks she deserves it, and James really wanted Cassie to come.

EMOTION I WANT TO CAPTURE:

Thrill and apprehension (the good kind)

SENSES:

Hear: Chatter of restaurant folks. Guys at the bar yelling at the basketball game playing. Clashes of glass. Chime of forks. James's voice filling the room. Squeal of girls.

Smell: Onion rings. Greasy food: Hamburgers. Hot dogs. Corn dogs. French fries. Alcohol.

Taste: Whatever she's eating

Sight: Brands of beer advertised on poster behind stage

Touch: Wooden booth. Cold ice cream. And soft drink which she is never allowed to have.

Reaction to these senses: Grandma would not approve of this unhealthy, greasy food. But now I can enjoy it since she's not here. Isn't it crazy how doing this, behind her back, makes it even more appealing?

How do the senses intensify the mood? When James's voice fills the room, she realizes that this is what she's been missing – the thrill of a concert. The way that normal teens are able to simply live for the moment.