

# Dazzling Detail

## Student Lesson 2

### Consider the text:

Look for yellow when you're weary  
Smiling color makes you cheery  
Lemonade in hot July  
Flowers reaching for the sky  
Shining when you need a lift  
Nature's golden brightest gift

Laura Purdie Salas, "Sunshine," *Flashy, Clashy, and Oh-So Splashy: Poems about Color*

### Take a deeper look:

1. What is the main idea of this poem? Which lines of the poem tell you the main idea?
2. What are the details that support the main idea?

### Now you try it:

Think about your favorite color. What are some things that have your favorite color? For example, if my favorite color is blue, I might think of the sky, my cat's eyes, a shirt I like, or my lunch box. Talk about your favorite color with a partner. Now write a main idea and two sentences that give details about your main idea. You can make your favorite color sentences into a poem if you like!

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### Commentary and Suggestions for Teachers

**Lesson Objective:** to understand how details support the main idea and reveal the author's attitude

#### Consider the text:

This is a poem about the color yellow. The purpose is to entertain and give insight. The audience is young people (The vocabulary and rhythm are simple, and the poem is upbeat and full of concrete detail). Read the poem aloud several times. Be sure to clarify the vocabulary for students, especially “weary” (tired) and “cheery” (happy). Yellow is usually considered a happy color. It would be fun to discuss this with students and see if they can think of other yellow things that make them happy.

#### Take a deeper look:

1. The main idea is that things that are yellow will make you happy when you are tired or sad. The main idea is stated in lines one and two (“Look for yellow when you're weary / Smiling color makes you cheery”).
2. The details that support the main idea are examples of happy things that are yellow: lemonade in summer and flowers such as sunflowers, which grow very tall toward the sun. It would be helpful to show students a picture of a field of sunflowers, readily available on the Internet.

#### Now you try it:

Give students time to think and talk about colors and colorful things. Then they can write a paragraph or a poem, modeled after the poem about yellow. Poems should look something like this:

**Look for purple when you're cold.**

**It will make your heart feel bold.**

**Purple sunsets make me warm.**

**Purple curtains hide a storm.**

A paragraph should look something like this:

**I love the color purple. It makes me feel warm when I'm cold and makes me feel strong when I am afraid. For example, when I look at a purple sunset, I feel warm and comforted. When I close the purple curtains in my room, I feel safe when there is a storm outside.**

Students should share their poems or paragraphs with the class.