

## Symbolic Sensory Study Answer Key

Responses will vary. Sample answers include:

1. **Sensory details:**

- Sight: ribbon of smoke, last light of sunset, glow from the window, dark woods
- Sound: silence implied by every sound being held still
- Smell: smoke smell implied from the cabin
- Taste: sharp cold air
- Touch: cold air, frozen evening

2. **Theme or symbol:** Warmth and safety contrasted with isolation or darkness; the cabin as a symbol of refuge.

3. **Explanation:** The glowing window and curling smoke show warmth and security. The cold, frozen air and dark woods emphasize the surrounding danger or loneliness, reinforcing the idea of the cabin as a protective symbol.

4. **Author's purpose:** The author likely uses sensory imagery to create contrast, highlight mood, and deepen the meaning of the cabin as more than just a setting element.

5. **Interpretation:** The imagery creates feelings of quiet tension, isolation, and the comfort of finding light in darkness.

### Teacher's Guide

- Review the concepts of **imagery**, **symbolism**, and **theme** before beginning. Encourage students to look for deeper meaning rather than surface description.
- Read the excerpt aloud to emphasize tone and sensory detail. Model identifying one or two details to establish expectations.
- For extension, assign students a passage from a current class text and have them perform the same analysis, focusing on how authors use sensory imagery to shape meaning.