

LO: To identify the senses within a text.



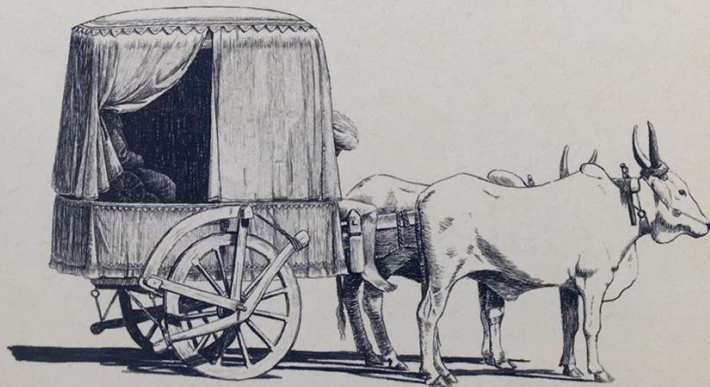
Read the text and identify the senses within it.



Tashi hauled her basket over to where her aunt stood at the end of the line. Sonam looked down at the child with big astonished eyes but did not speak. The Overseer was marching about. He looked like a man whose brains were on fire. "Silence!" he yelled. "Silence! Stand straight! Be quiet!"

But it was not the Overseer's mad behaviour that interested Tashi. In the open space beside the hut was a cart with two wooden wheels. The two enormous oxen that had pulled it to the plantation stood twitching their tails at bothersome flies. The driver was a very small man wearing a white turban, and he seemed to be asleep.

In the cart there was a chair with cushions and a tall back, like a throne. It had a canopy of purple silk. And in the chair, in the purple shadow of the purple silk, sat a man made of silver light like the moon.



The Overseer spoke. "We are honoured," he said, "we are very, very honoured to be visited today by His Excellency the Royal Tea-Taster himself!" The Overseer turned and made a creepy crouching gesture towards the man who looked like the moon. "As you know, His Excellency the Royal

Tea-Taster travels the whole world to find teas that are good enough to be drunk by Her Majesty the Empress!" The tea-pickers whispered to each other. The Overseer went dark in the face.

"Silence! His Excellency the Royal Tea-Taster will now examine the tea in each of your baskets. And I am sure, quite sure, that he will find that the tea we grow on our plantation is the finest in the world."

The Royal Tea-Taster pulled himself up from his throne and stood in the sunlight. Now Tashi could see him clearly. Gold threads glittered in his blue turban, and his long white coat was so heavily embroidered with silver that it seemed to be made of white fire. His moustache was like a spread of snowy wings.



The Royal Tea-Taster strolled over to the line of women. He reached down into the first basket and picked out a sprig of tea. He held it up and looked at it very closely, frowning. He crushed the leaves and stuck his long nose into his cupped hands and sniffed a long, noisy sniff. Then he tossed the tea aside. He did this a few times along the line, but more often he just glanced at a basket of tea and moved on. The Overseer followed at a respectful distance, his hands rubbing each other, his face wearing a sick and frightened grin.

The Royal Tea-Taster was quite close to Sonam and Tashi when the Overseer lost control of himself and dared to speak.

“Excellency, sir!” he said. “This tea, our tea: it is very fine, is it not? Is it not a most beautiful tea?”

The Royal Tea-Taster lifted his nose as if he had smelt a dead rat.

“Your tea,” he said, “your tea is ... ordinary.”

The Overseer moaned and bent almost double as if he had a great pain in his stomach.

The Royal Tea-Taster moved on and at last stood before Sonam and Tashi. Tashi looked up into his eyes, which were almost as deep and dark as the eyes of Rajah.

The Royal Tea-Taster turned to walk away. Then he stopped. His nose twitched.

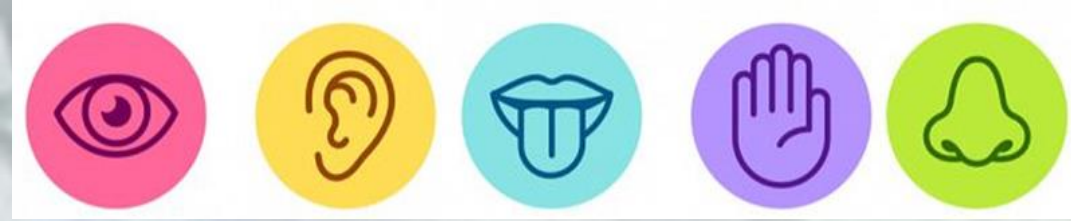
He came back to the basket that stood in front of Tashi and dipped his plump hand into it, testing the warm dampness of the leaves. He took a single sprig and studied it, twirling it between his fingers. He crushed it and sniffed it, twice.

“Where did you pick this?”

He spoke to Sonam, not to Tashi.

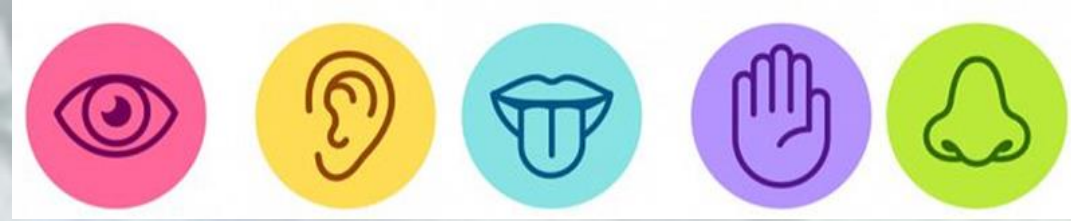
Sonam said, “Sir, I did not pick it. This child did. Her name is Tashi. She is the daughter of my sister, who is sick.”

The Royal Tea-Taster took a step back so that he could see Tashi over the gleaming bulge of his belly. His look was very stern. He lifted a hand and clicked his fingers.



HEAR

- Silence
- Yelling of the Overseer
- Overseer speaking
- Whispering of the tea-pickers
- Noisy sniff of The Royal Tea Taster
- The Royal Tea Taster speaking
- Overseer moaning
- Sonam speaking
- Clicking of fingers



SMELL

- Smelt a sprig of tea
- Smelt a dead rat
- Smelt Tashi's tea