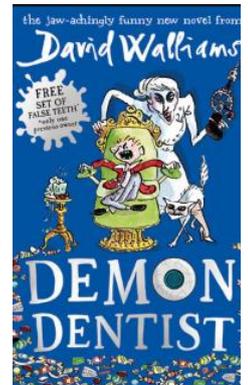


Shops often feature as part of stories as they are significant parts of everyday life. Those of you who have read David Walliams books will be familiar with Raj and his newsagent shop. The character and his shop are a consistent feature through many of his books. Below you can see a description of Raj and his shop taken from 'Demon Dentist' and 'Billionaire Boy.'

He was a big, soft, marshmallow of a man and although he loved selling sweets, he loved eating them more. After the rush of sugar following a mid-afternoon scoffing session, he would often fall asleep at his counter...

Alfie always looked forward to seeing Raj. The newsagent knew how poor he and his dad were, and being a kind-hearted man he would often give Alfie a treat to take home. A melted ice lolly, a chocolate bar that had been slightly nibbled by a rodent, or a bag of jelly babies that Raj had accidentally sat on so all the tiny tots were now flattened. Raj wasn't a wealthy man, and couldn't afford to give anything more. But to Alfie and his father they were like gifts sent from heaven, and the difference between going to bed hungry or not.

Raj's Newsagents sits on a run-down parade of shops alongside a launderette and an old, closed florists and inside you can find everything from out-of-date Easter eggs, post-it notes and decades-old newspapers, to pensioners lurking behind quavers. The stock is haphazardly laid out and everything is advertised with crazy offers, like 'buy 5 get half of 1 free'. Raj is loved in the community as a jolly, sarcastic and strangely-wise figure.



Shops also featured in Harry Potter. On Harry's shopping trip to get him kitted up for Hogwarts, we see many curious and amazing shops being described:

They bought Harry's school books in a shop called Flourish and Blotts where the shelves were stacked to the ceiling with books as large as paving stones bound in leather; books the size of postage stamps in covers of silk; books full of peculiar symbols and a few books with nothing in them at all. Even Dudley, who never read anything, would have been wild to get his hands on some of these. Hagrid almost had to drag Harry away from Curses and Countercurses (Bewitch Your Friends and Befuddle Your Enemies with the Latest Revenges: Hair Loss, Jelly-Legs, Tongue-Tying and Much, Much More) by Professor Vindictus Viridian.



The last shop was narrow and shabby. Peeling gold letters over the door read Ollivanders: Makers of Fine Wands since 382 B.C. A single wand lay on a faded purple cushion in the dusty window.

A tinkling bell rang somewhere in the depths of the shop as they stepped inside. It was a tiny place, empty except for a single, spindly chair that Hagrid sat on to wait. Harry felt strangely as though he had entered a very strict library; he swallowed a lot of new questions that had just occurred to him and looked instead at the thousands of narrow boxes piled neatly right up to the ceiling. For some reason, the back of his neck prickled. The very dust and silence in here seemed to tingle with some secret magic.

Both authors use a variety of techniques to describe the shops and to create an atmosphere.

One of these techniques is the use of expanded noun phrases:

A tinkling bell

A single, spindly chair

Books the size of postage stamps covered in silk

Run down parade of shops

Decades-old newspapers

Watch the clips on BBC bitesize to remind you how to create an expanded noun phrase <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/znpgbgwx>

Look at the picture below. Your task today is to write a description of the shop trying to include a range of expanded noun phrases.



Start by listing all the nouns (things) you can see.

Think about the items, what are the items in, where are the items - on the top shelf, under the counter.

Think then about what sounds you may hear - the sweets being poured onto the weighing scale, the doorbell ringing as someone walks in.

What can you smell?

What can you feel?

What might you taste?

Now think about how you are going to link all these ideas. Remember, when authors write descriptions they usually do not write 'I can see...'

How you are going to start each sentence. You could use this list of sentence starters to help you vary it.

Sitting on the top shelf...

Like soldiers standing to attention....

On the highest shelf....

Carefully, the bars of chocolate are arranged on the edge of the shelf

As there are so many bottles, they have to be stacked right to the ceiling.

Covered in brightly coloured paper, the chocolate bars decorated the edge of every shelf.



You may start your description in any way you like but if you are struggling, you may use my starter below:

The shelves were filled with an amazing assortment of every type of sweet treat that you could think of. Under the counter.....