

Handout 5: Exploring Mood and Atmosphere

In this activity, you will listen to and experiment with the gamified audio-led interpretation of the poems *A Story, or History, Perhaps?* by Abdul Ghani Hamid and/or *Chinatown, I* by Tan Chee Lay in order to establish multiple interpretations of mood and atmosphere.

Part 1: Identifying mood and atmosphere

- a. Read your assigned poem once more without music. What mood and atmosphere do you notice the poet is trying to convey or emphasise?
- b. Use 2 to 3 words from the list of suggested words for mood and atmosphere in the **Handout 5** as a guide.

Poem:	
2 to 3 words describing mood and atmosphere the poet evokes	

***Part 2: Create your own mood and atmosphere!**

- a. Using the respective microsite, playback the poem 2 to 3 times, and experiment with the wheel of sound effects. Select at least 1 or more sounds, before deciding on your preferred combination.
- b. Referring to the list of helping adjectives describing mood and atmosphere below, select 2 to 3 words to describe the mood and atmosphere you wish to evoke.
- c. Lastly, what aspect of the poem did you want to emphasise with your choices?

Poem:	
a. My preferred combination	
b. Choose 2 to 3 words describing mood and atmosphere you wish to evoke	
c. What aspect of the poem did you want to emphasise?	

*Part 2 assumes that students are **not making voice recordings with microphones** of the poem. Part 2 assumes that students are only using the playback of sound effects on the microsite.

Option for Part 2: Create your own voice recording!

- i. Using a microphone from the computer/laptop/headphones/earpieces, add your own voice recording of the poem.
- ii. In the playback, add your combination of sound effects.
- iii. Generate the track and upload it on a platform you share with your class (e.g. SLS or Google Classroom etc.)

Part 3: Critical reflection on your creation

With your combination of sounds, answer the following questions in your handout:

- a. Was there a sound effect you chose to serve as a constant background track?
What did you want to emphasise with it?

- b. Was there a sound effect you chose to start or stop at a specific point of the poem? What did you want to emphasise with it?

- c. What other sound effects or sound bites not included in the audio experience would you add? Why?

Adjectives describing mood and atmosphere		
calm	jubilant	sad
cold	lethargic	scary
depressing	liberating	secure
desolate	light-hearted	sentimental
disturbing	melancholic	serene
dreamy	mysterious	sleepy
energetic	nostalgic	sombre
exhilarating	nightmarish	suspenseful
frightening	ominous	sympathetic
gloomy	oppressive	terrifying
grim	peaceful	tense
harmonious	pensive	threatening
haunting	pessimistic	uncanny
heavy	placid	uncomfortable
hopeful	playful	uneasy
hopeless	pleasant	violent
hostile	relaxed	welcoming
inviting	restless	wistful

* Note: You may also wish to include a word not present in this list where relevant.

Reference:

Choo, Suzanne and Yeo, Robert. (2018). *Sense and Sensitivity: A Guide to Unseen Poetry for the GCE 'O' and 'N' Level Exam*, p. 19