

## Sensory Stories

Sensory stimulation is vital for everyone's physical and mental well being.

Sensory stories partner concise text with rich sensory experience to convey a narrative

Sensory stories have been used with individuals with profound and multiple learning disabilities, dementia, autism and sensory processing difficulties,. They have been used with babies and children in the early years, and with adults in their later years, they have been used in schools, care settings, heritage settings and homes, by specialist practitioners and by absolute beginners. They truly are for everyone.



Simple sensory resources are easy to find.

### Guides

Guides like this one, on a range of topics, are available to download for free from [www.TheSensoryProjects.co.uk](http://www.TheSensoryProjects.co.uk) follow links to the Sensory Story page and scroll to the bottom for the guides.

**The Sensory Projects** run on the principle that with the right knowledge and a little creativity inexpensive items can become effective tools for sensory inclusion.

Through the work of all the Projects founder **Joanna Grace** is seeking to contribute to a future where people are understood in spite of their differences.

To learn more about the projects, and to access free resources and information about bespoke sensory training visit

[www.TheSensoryProjects.co.uk](http://www.TheSensoryProjects.co.uk)

Joanna's books: **Sensory Stories for Children and Teens** and **Sensory-being for Sensory Beings** are available on amazon, with more titles due for publication in 2018.



The Sensory Projects

Joanna Grace

[www.TheSensoryProjects.co.uk](http://www.TheSensoryProjects.co.uk)

How can I  
use a sensory  
story in my  
school?



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# Using sensory stories in schools: Some ideas to get you started...

## In special schools

Sensory stories can be differentiated to suit a range of needs. By identifying the particular needs of your students you will be able to use the stories to support their learning, development and enjoyment of school.

### For students with profound and multiple learning disabilities.

Repeat the story over a number of sessions maintaining the highest standards of consistency possible.

### For students with sensory processing difficulties.

Grade stimuli that students are likely to find challenging and increase the strength of these stimuli over a number of sessions. For example: in a story with a bang in it, on the first reading you might simply say the word bang, on the next say it loudly, the third shout it, before introducing the actual bang on the fourth retelling of the story.

### For students in mixed ability classes.

Share the story as an introduction to the session, then create work based on one or two lines of the story for students to focus on for that session. By using consecutive lines as the basis of work for subsequent sessions you can build up a deep understanding of the story whilst also facilitating the repetition needed by other students.

Students achieving at a higher cognitive levels undertaking a series of sessions like this will find that they can use the sentences that make up the story as a wonderful aide-memoir to access all the learning they have experiences in course of their study.

### For students with autism

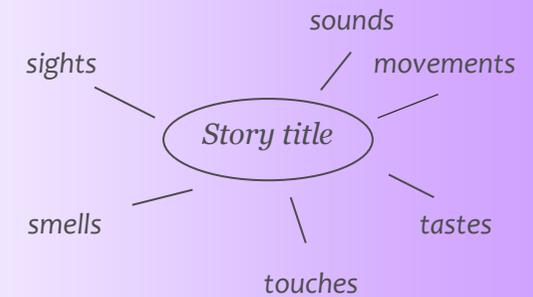
Sensory stories can be used to invite an individual with autism to take part in a conversation, they can also be used to support individuals with autism to cope with change and prepare for new events.

### In primary schools

Sensory stories, and sensory stimulus can be used to promote engagement with a subject. Providing sensory stimulation with a story helps children sustain their attention.

You could use a sensory story as a prompt to get children thinking about those who are different to themselves. Ask them who they think the story is for, and why it might be written the way in the way it is.

Sensory stories can be used to promote creative writing. Give children stimuli to experience and ask them to generate words to describe the sensations. Ask children to identify the sensory experiences in a story they plan to write. Doing a sensory sketch ahead of writing will encourage a wider diversity of descriptive words in their creative writing.



A sensory sketch

## In secondary schools

Sensory stories can present a motivating comprehension challenge. Ask students to distill a story into less than ten sentences. Although writing only 10 sentences might seem easy, the challenge of identifying what the important parts of a story are, what is essential to the narrative, etc, is a fantastic challenge to student's understanding of a text. Being able to distill large amounts of information into a few sentences is a great revision skill.

### Sensory stories in other settings

Sensory stories work well in many settings including: nurseries, heritage settings, adult care settings, visitor centers, and care homes for the elderly.

### Bespoke training from The Sensory Project

The Sensory Project can create a bespoke training day to enable you to use Sensory Stories in your setting. For more information get in touch: contact details are to be found on the back of this guide.