

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This lesson will help you to:

- understand how writers use their expertise with language to create a range of varied effects.

LANGUAGE FOR DIFFERENT EFFECTS

Many writers think about their potential readers when they are writing. You have already looked at **purpose** and **perspective**, and now you are going to build on this by considering more of the effects that writers can achieve with their choice of words, phrases and sentences. Some of the examples in this section will be taken from the passages you have already looked at.

GETTING CLOSE TO THE READER

Some writers want to create a close relationship with their readers, while others do not. In autobiographies, writers may share very private thoughts and deal with difficult emotions. They can use chatty or colloquial speech if they feel that that is the best way to engage with their readers. Diaries can be good examples of this, whether their authors are writing only for themselves or for others.

EMOTIVE LANGUAGE

In *A Passage to Africa*, George Alagiah wants to shock the reader and to communicate the suffering that he sees in the villages that he visits. He wants you to see in your mind's eye the things he writes about.

Of the writers that you have read so far, which other writers have used emotive language?

ACTIVITY 1

A02

SKILLS

CRITICAL THINKING, ANALYSIS,
REASONING

▼ THINKING ABOUT PURPOSE AND EFFECT

Read the following quotations, taken from passages in this book, then copy and complete the table.

▼ QUOTATION	▼ LANGUAGE	▼ PURPOSE	▼ EFFECT
'I was 19. My American roommate was shocked by me. She asked where I had learned to speak English so well, and was confused when I said that Nigeria happened to have English as its official language.'	Narrative, with some emotive adjectives.	To show how people are prejudiced.	You learn from this anecdote how ordinary American people know little about distant foreign cultures (in this case, Nigeria).
'It was not a smile of greeting, it was not a smile of joy — how could it be? — but it was a smile nonetheless. It touched me in a way I could not explain. It moved me in a way that went beyond pity or revulsion.'	Emotive, focused on feelings.		
'The mattak or blubber of the whale is rich in necessary minerals and vitamins, and in a place where the climate prohibits the growth of vegetables or fruit, this rich source of vitamin C was the one reason that the Eskimos have never suffered from scurvy.'	Explanatory (or expository).		