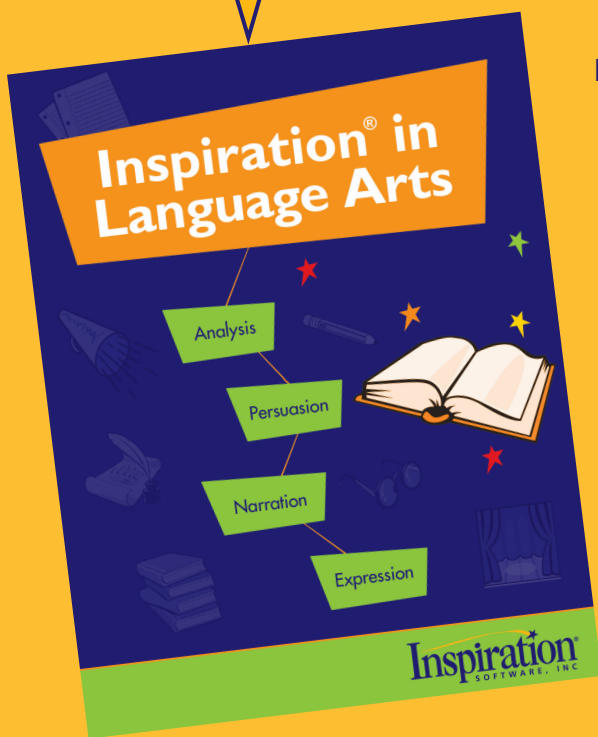


# Excerpts from Inspiration® in Language Arts



Improve language arts outcomes in grades 6-12 with *Inspiration in Language Arts*. Quickly integrate Inspiration and visual learning into the language arts curriculum with 30+ standards-based lesson plans covering analysis, persuasion, narration, and expression. Each easy-to-use lesson includes an overview, standards match, preparation, step-by-step lesson plan, and enhancements for advanced students.

**This preview of *Inspiration in Language Arts* contains:**

- Overview of lesson plan book
- Actual table of contents
- Two complete standards-based lesson plans
- Ordering information

**Inspiration**  
SOFTWARE, INC

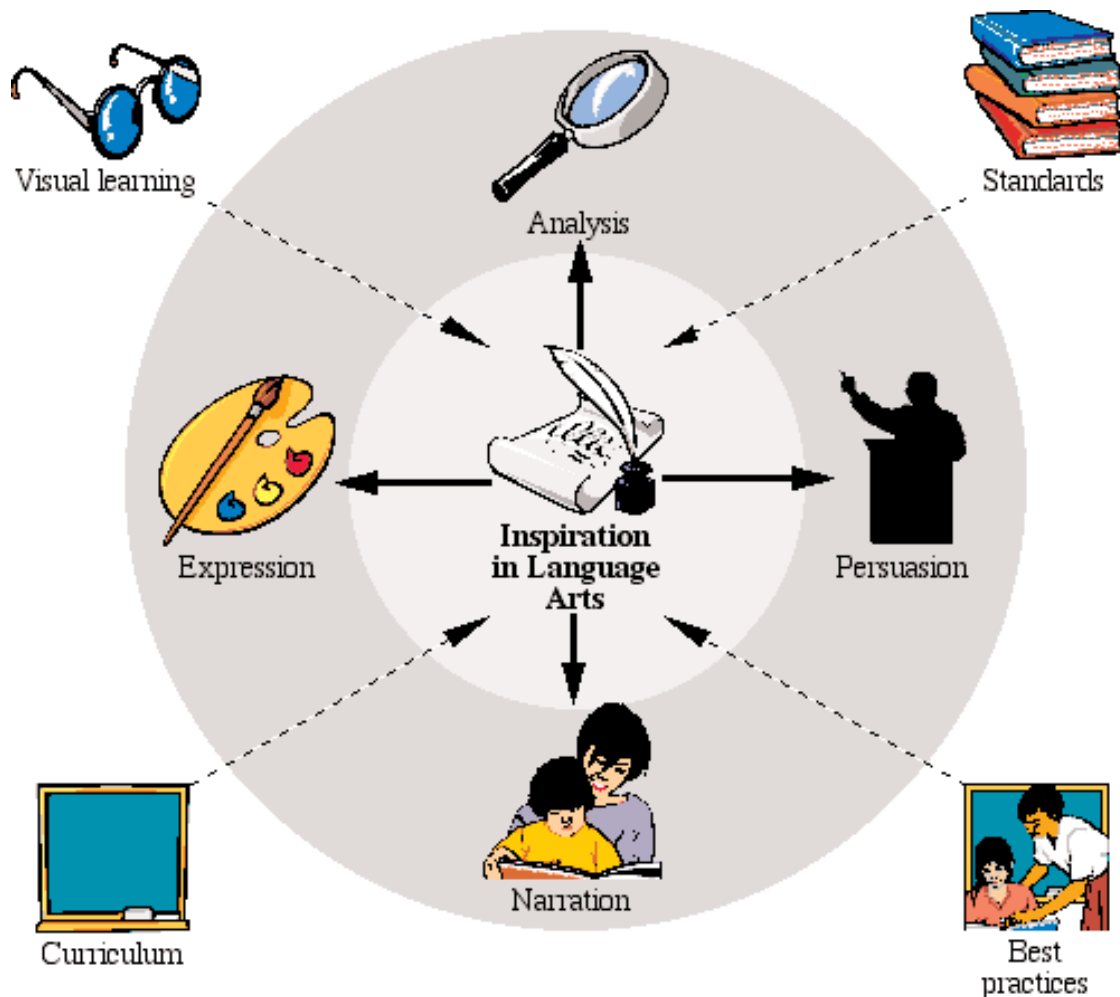
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# About *Inspiration*<sup>®</sup> in Language Arts

## Organization

*Inspiration in Language Arts* is divided into sections that represent the major ways reading and writing are taught in schools: analysis, persuasion, narration, and expression. Each section introduces standards, derived from those set by states and professional organizations, that inform the lessons. Language arts standards are unique in that they define literacy processes rather than discrete facts. Moreover, these processes are consistent across grade levels. For this reason, each lesson addresses a general process or skill; its depth and complexity depend on the students themselves, and the abilities they bring with them to the classroom.



# Table of Contents

→ The complete table of contents from *Inspiration® in Language Arts* is included below and on the following page. Lesson plans with stars are featured in this excerpt.

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# Pervasive Persuasion

## Standards

Standards are introduced at the beginning of each section in *Inspiration® in Language Arts*. This lesson is based on the following standards:

- Students use reading strategies to understand persuasive texts and techniques.
- Students evaluate information based on accuracy, evidence of bias, logic, reasoning, propaganda techniques, and the author's expertise.
- Students analyze persuasive techniques used in various media.

## Overview

Advertising methods range from bold and blaring to subtle and subliminal. In this lesson, students explore persuasive techniques used to sell products.

## Preparation

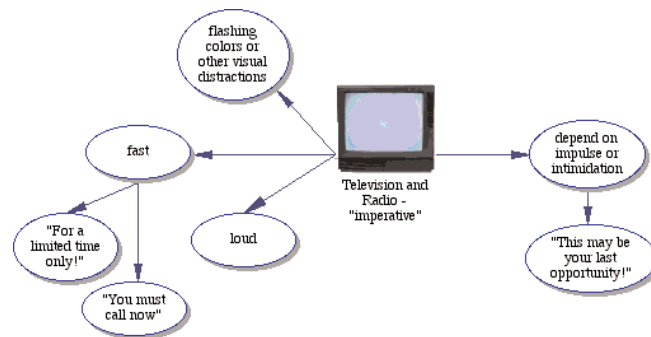
1. Gather a collection of magazines representing a range of interests and markets.
2. Identify a very subtle print ad (for example, an investment fund) and make copies to share with the class.
3. Review imperative mood with your students and the concept of "you" as the understood subject of imperative sentences. Over several days, ask students to pay attention to television or radio advertising and list ways in which imperative sentences are used commercially.

## Lesson

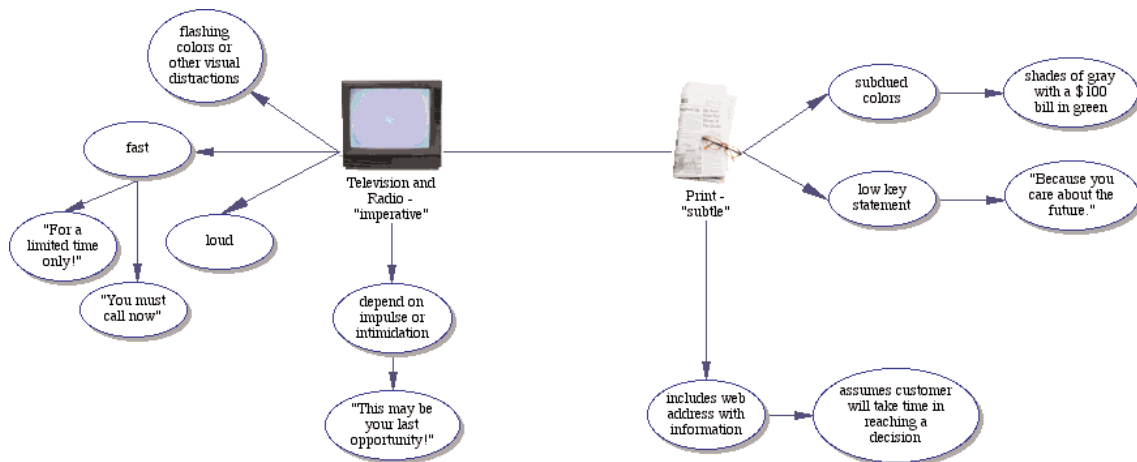
1. Open a new Inspiration document and ask students to share their examples of imperative sentences in advertising. Use the RapidFire™ tool to record their contributions.



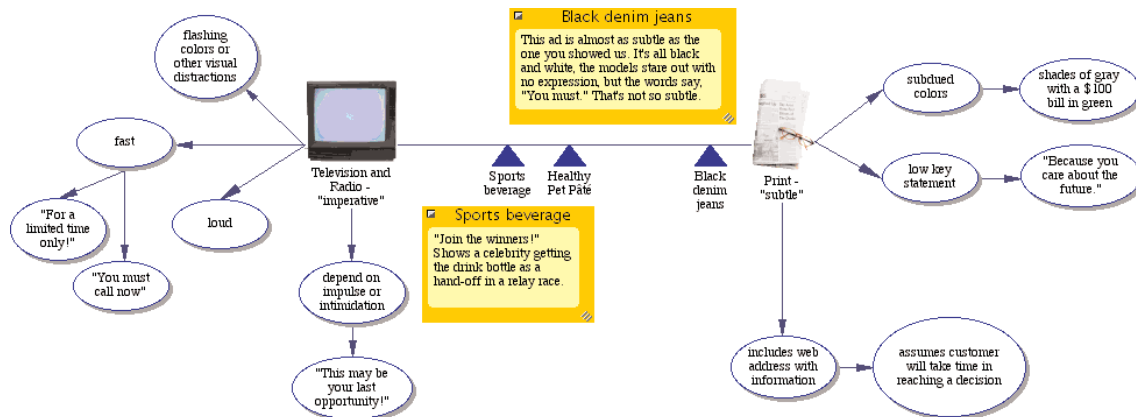
2. Ask students to speculate about such ads. Who is the target audience? What do the products have in common? What is the effect of using imperative sentences in advertising? Record their comments in a new diagram.



- Distribute copies of the print ad you made earlier and ask students to comment on it as well. Record their ideas about the print ad in the Television and Radio diagram as above. Ask them to characterize the difference between the two advertising approaches (for example, “hard sell” versus “soft sell,” or “imperative” versus “subtle”).
- Link the main categories as in the example below, and save the diagram for student reference.



- Explain to the class what is meant by “continuum” and tell them they will be selecting ads and deciding where they belong on the continuum between the two advertising approaches.
- Distribute magazines among the students. Instruct them to choose three print ads to analyze. Encourage students to discuss and debate their ideas, and decide on the best way to position the ads on the continuum.



### For more advanced students

Have students speculate about how the look and wording of ads might change if they were directed at different audiences.

# Working with Setting

## Standards

Standards are introduced at the beginning of each section in *Inspiration® in Language Arts*. This lesson is based on the following standard:

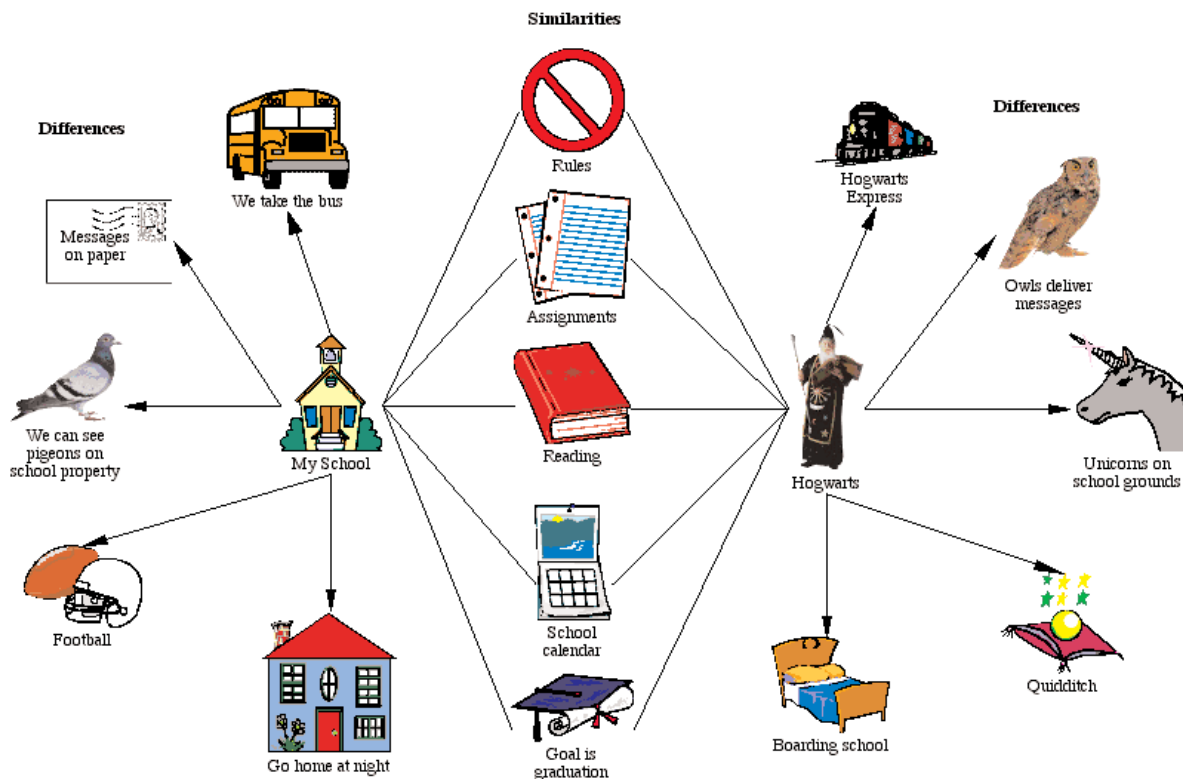
- Students use strategies to write narrative text, including fiction and autobiography.

## Overview

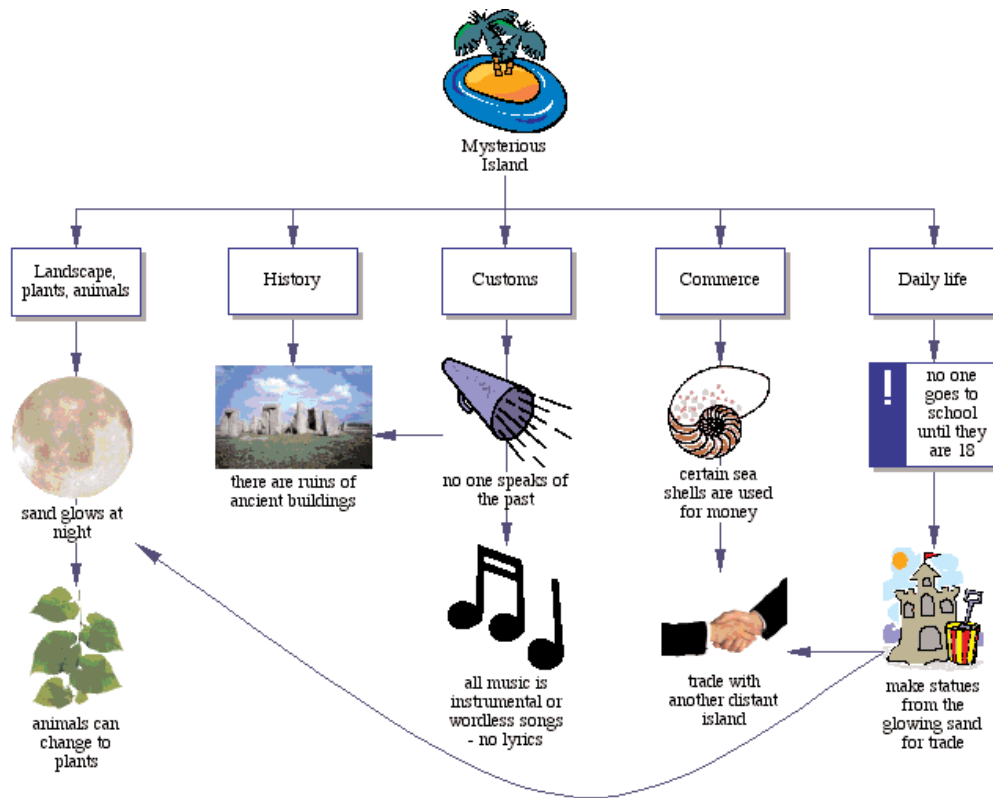
The settings of stories are often overlooked in the teaching of literature, but it is one of the most important aspects of story writing. In this lesson, students explore the importance of setting and discover its impact on the story.

## Lesson

1. Spend a few minutes with students discussing stories with distinct settings such as, *Harry Potter*, *Johnny Tremain*, or *Watership Down*.
2. Direct groups of students to open the Inspiration Thinking Skills—Comparison template and find the similarities and differences between a story setting and the setting of their home or school.



3. Circulate among the groups and prompt them to go beyond obvious physical differences to examine the culture, society, and traditions of the fictional setting.
4. Ask the groups analytic questions, for example, “How does the setting affect plot? What did the writer need to know about the setting in order to write the book? What categories of information do you see?”
5. Assign students to work in pairs to create an imaginary setting using their insights.



6. Ask students to share their diagrams with the class and discuss how the setting they created might serve as the foundation for a story.

### For more advanced students

The role of setting varies depending on the story. Sometimes it is a mere backdrop, but in other stories, it is as important as the characters.

- Ask students to generate a list of stories they are familiar with, then prompt the class to identify the importance of each setting to the plot. Their list should include: lend local color, set mood, affect action, and provide symbolism.
- Have groups create a diagram that demonstrates how various stories would change if the settings were different. Would the same story be possible?
- Collaborate with a social studies teacher on an historical fiction assignment. Assign students to research the customs, medical practices, and technology of a time in the past and create a story in which this setting is vital.

# Ready to order?

→ **Inspiration® in Language Arts: Standards-aligned lesson plans** makes it easy to integrate Inspiration and visual learning into the language arts curriculum. Improve achievement in grades 6-12 with these 30+ standards-based lesson plans covering analysis, persuasion, narration, and expression.

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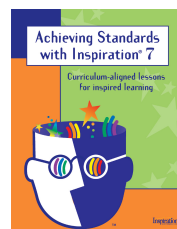
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30+ lesson plans cover life, physical, and earth sciences. Students in grades 6-12 build concept maps, develop experimental designs and lab reports, and implement assessment strategies.



### **Achieving Standards with Inspiration 7:** *Curriculum-aligned lessons for inspired learning*

Teachers get started using Inspiration effectively with this set of 35 lesson plans for middle and high school in language arts, social studies, and science.

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