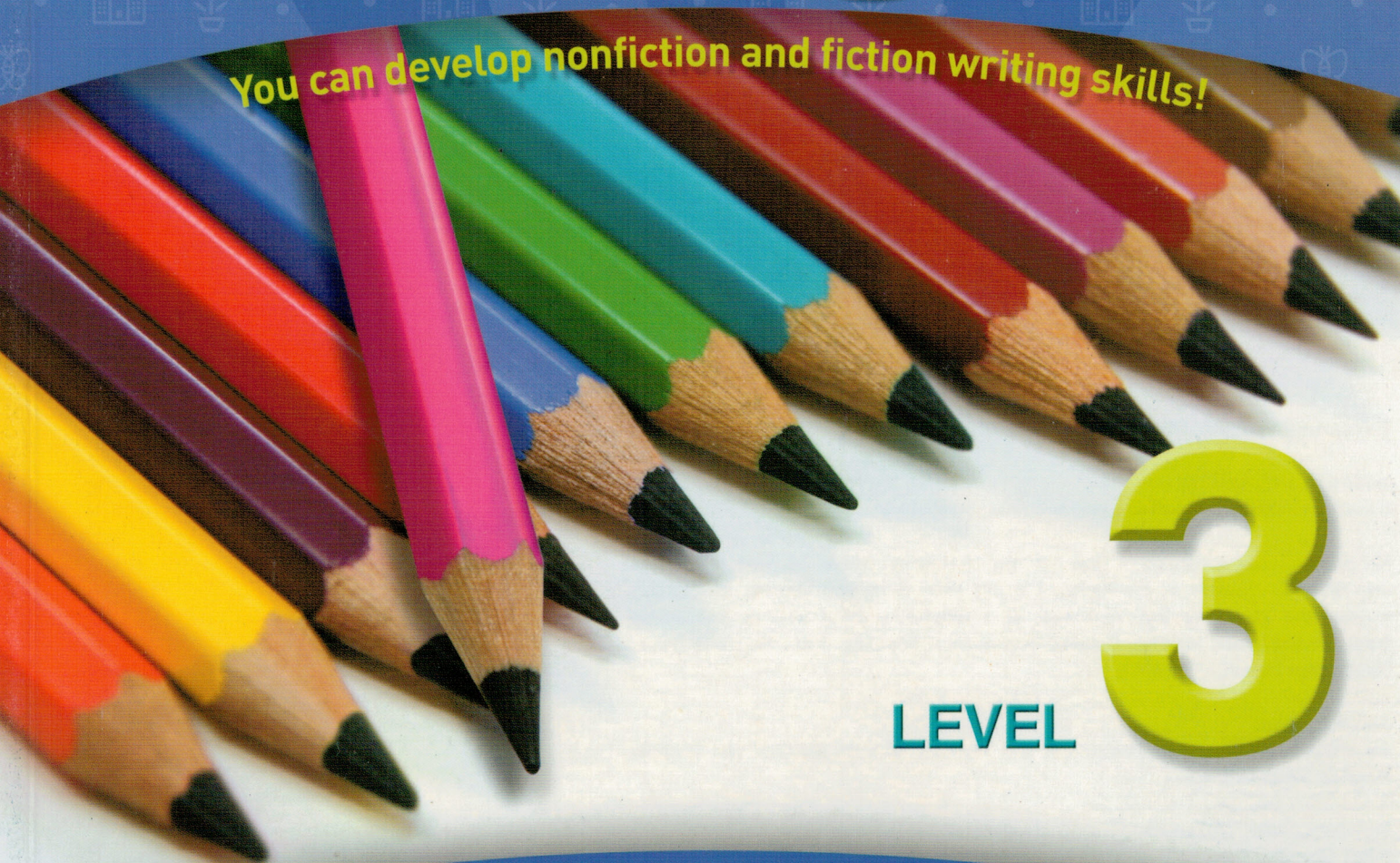


Exploring Writing PLUS⁺

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A Visit to the Green Monster

I had to see the Green Monster one more time. It might not be around much longer. I wanted a last look.

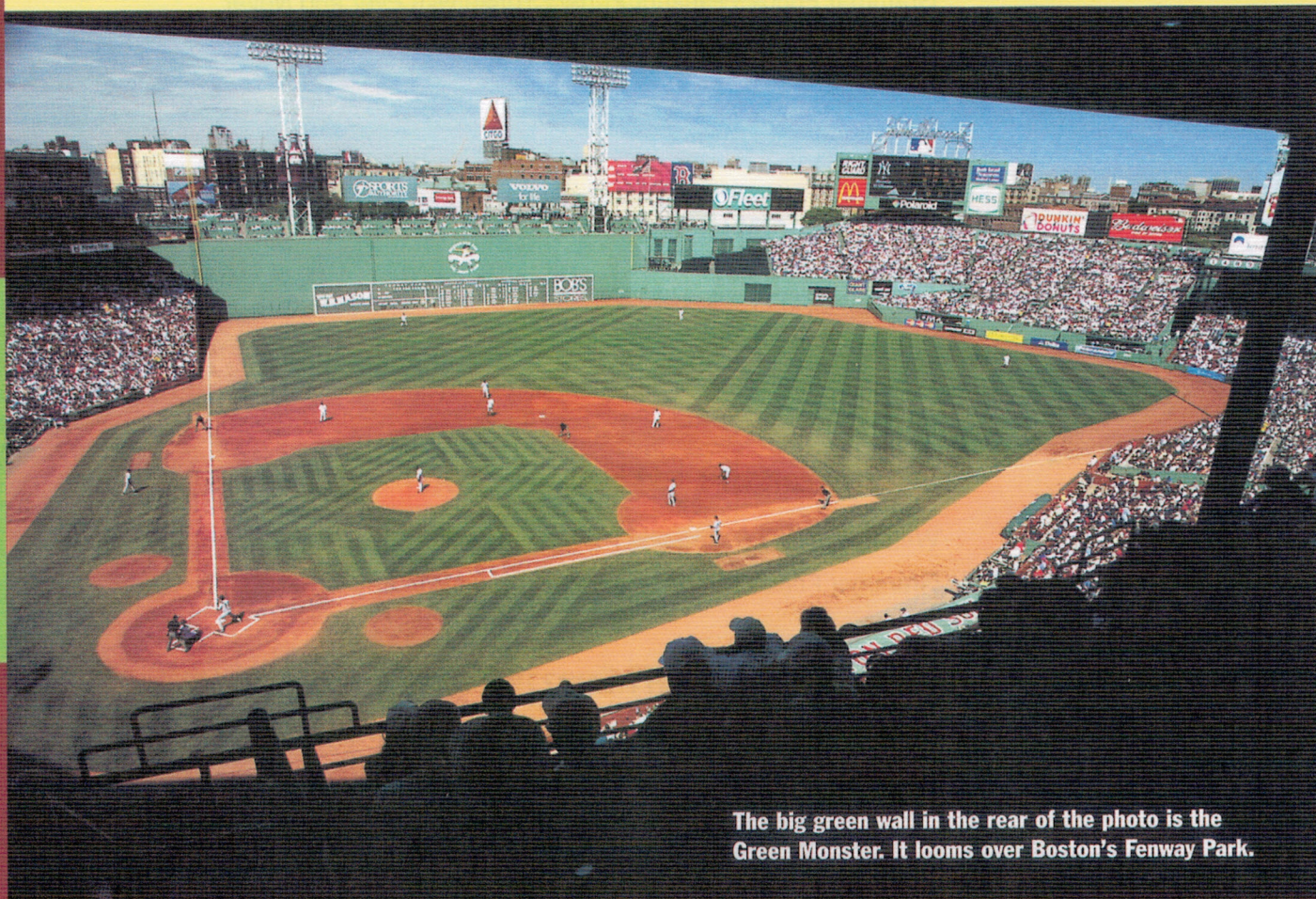
First, I walked into a huge **cavern** with a concrete floor. It was dimly lit and smelled of hot dogs, pretzels, and sweat. There were thousands of other people there, fighting their way up narrow **ramps** to see the monster.

Then I saw it—a towering green wall in the left field of Fenway Park, the home of the Boston Red Sox. No other baseball team has a **stadium** with a wall like that. It's so close yet so high. It makes pitchers and hitters change the way they play. They say the Monster has a sense of humor because it sends balls bouncing in **weird** directions.

Some people don't like the Green Monster, but I love it. I love everything about Fenway, even the way the hard seats are so crowded together. That just makes you feel the excitement of the game more. I don't even mind when I have to sit behind a big steel column. It's great to know I'm sitting in the same park ballplayers used in 1912.

Sometimes there's talk about changing Fenway Park. The owners would probably like a brand new stadium, with more seats. Some of the fans might like that, too. Not me. I hope I'll always be able to visit the Green Monster and that they never change Fenway—home of the 2004 World Series Champion Boston Red Sox!

RICK STEWART/GETTY IMAGES



The big green wall in the rear of the photo is the Green Monster. It looms over Boston's Fenway Park.

Reader's Response

• Answer the questions.

1. What is the Green Monster?

2. Where is Fenway Park?

3. What sporting event is played in Fenway Park?

4. Why do people say the Monster has a sense of humor?

5. How does the writer feel about Fenway Park? What details support this?

6. Would you like to visit Fenway Park? Why or why not?

Words to Know

- **cavern:**
a large cave
- **dimly:**
in a way that does not provide much light
- **ramp:**
a slope connecting two levels of a building or road
- **stadium:**
a large building where people watch sporting events
- **weird:**
strange and unusual

Writer's Response

- Summarize each part of the story.

Beginning

Middle

End

Writing Focus

Identifying and Writing Setting

Setting is one of the main elements in fiction and narrative writing. Setting usually refers to the time and place of the action. Setting can also include the social background, or how people tend to act in a certain place and time.

The first step to writing a setting is to begin with time and place. Then describe what is going on in that time and place. Include all the senses in your description. A good way to practice writing settings is to focus on describing a place. Write about what you see, hear, smell, touch, and taste in the place.



Fill in the blank with the best description.

1. The _____ shoes needed to be thrown away.
sense of sight
2. I love to eat _____ apple pie.
sense of taste
3. The girl smelled the _____ flower.
sense of smell
4. The _____ tree was swinging in the wind.
sense of sight
5. My eyes feel _____ after I went swimming.
sense of touch
6. The skateboard goes _____ as it rolls down the sidewalk.
sense of hearing



Read *A Visit to the Green Monster* and find sensory descriptions. Then write the key words of the descriptions in the correct boxes.

1. See	2. Hear	3. Smell

Grammar Focus

There is/are/was/were

When we talk about nouns, we use **there is/are/was/were**.

If the sentence tells about **now**, we use **there is/there are**.

singular	There is a big apple tree in the garden.
	Is there a post office near here?
	There isn't any snow here in the winter.
plural	There are some apple trees in the garden.
	Are there many tall buildings in your city?
	There aren't many girls in the Snowboarding Club.

***there is = there's**

***are not = aren't**

***is not = isn't**

If the sentence tells about **the past**, we use **there was/there were**.

singular	There was a big apple tree in the garden.
	Was there a post office near your school?
	There wasn't any snow here last year.
plural	There were some apple trees in the garden.
	Were there any phone messages for me yesterday?
	There weren't many girls in the Snowboarding Club.

***was not = wasn't**

***were not = weren't**



Fill in the blanks with *is, are, was, or were*.

- 1 There _____ no milk in the fridge now.
- 2 There _____ something in my eye. It hurts.
- 3 There _____ six people in my family. We love each other.
- 4 There _____ not many apples in this apple tree last year.
5. How many cookies _____ there in the jar now?
6. It was very hot this afternoon. There _____ no people on the street.
7. Jason said he heard something but there _____ nothing in the room.
8. I couldn't take pictures because there _____ not any battery power left in my camera.



Write about what is in *your room or house* now and what was in it when you were younger.

1. There's _____ .
2. There are _____ .
3. There isn't _____ .
4. There aren't _____ .
5. There was _____ .
6. There were _____ .
7. There wasn't _____ .
8. There weren't _____ .

Be the Writer



Choose a place that you think is special and write a journal telling about the place. Describe the setting in detail with sensory words.



Useful Words and Phrases

- family trip
- crowded
- special
- vacation
- went on a picnic
- is located in
- wonderful time
- should visit

● Prewrite.

Introduce
the place.

What did you see?

What did you hear?

What did you feel?

What did you taste?

What did you smell?

● Write.

	Title:
●	
●	

Checklist

Writing

- ☐ The beginning introduces the setting.
- ☐ The setting is described in detail.
- ☐ The description includes sense of sight, smell, taste, hearing, and touch.

Grammar

- ☐ *There is/are/was/were* used correctly.

Conventions

- ☐ Each sentence begins with a capital letter and ends with the correct end mark.
- ☐ All words are spelled correctly.