

### *Quick Write...*

"A man sits at a table on a terrace overlooking the sea. There is a light breeze in the air and he feels the warmth of sun on his skin. He is drinking orange juice and savouring the smell of his coffee, as he prepare toast with creamy unsalted butter and homemade strawberry jam. You are at a table nearby, reading your newspaper. When you look up a few minutes later, you notice that he isn't moving. You learn that he has "sensory breakdown". First the smoky taste of coffee disappeared and he could not longer tell whether the liquid in his mouth was hot or cold. Then the cup fell away from his fingers and crashed to the ground, burning him on his legs - though he didn't feel it nor did he hear the sound of the china breaking. Within seconds, he was overcome by silence and darkness." - from *IB TOK Course Companion, 2007 pg 22.*

1. Reading about the man's "sensory breakdown" often makes people feel uncomfortable. How does this story make you feel? Explain.
2. If you were forced to accept the loss of one of your senses, which would you choose? Which sense would you be least willing to give up? Explain your choices. Compare your answer with those around you. Is there a general consensus?

## Homefun prompt:

Choose one incident from your life, (possibly an event familiar to others so that you can share your writing next class with a sense of recognition or even amusement). Write a list of 5 - 10 pieces of information about your subject. Then write two descriptions of this incident which do not contradict each other factually, but which communicate quite different values and emotions through your selection of information, the emphasis you place on some information, and your word choice.

### **Home in the Negev Desert (1):**

In the center of the vast Negev desert lies a small spot of green. That miraculously green dot in the middle of endless yellow is my home. It lies on the edge of a gorgeous valley where the view is breathtaking and the peace and quiet feel like divine magic. The air is so clean and pure, so different from the city. On most days the weather is very good: the sun is shining and the sky is blue. Everyone knows each other in my village, and smiles when they say hello. It is a wonderful place to grow up in - no commotion, traffic, drugs, or violence.

*by Gal Pinshow*

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### **Home in the Negev Desert (2):**

In the center of the dry harsh Negev desert lies an almost unnoticeable spot of green. That small spot in endless nothingness is where I reside. It is situated on the edge of an arid valley where everything is so quiet that one can almost hear the sound of death. The air is so clear that it has no special fragrance, maybe because there is nothing out here to smell of anything, apart from sand and half-dead bushes. Most of the time the sun is shining full blast so that it gets so hot breathing becomes hard. Everyone in the village knows everything about each other because there is nothing better to do than gossip. Nothing ever happens in the village. Even thieves don't bother making the trip out into the middle of nowhere.

*by Gal Pinshow*