

Dunkirk: A Sensory Story



Inspiring Communication

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I lie huddled on the beach, sand and grit in my hands and hair
I'm looking for my mates, smoke and noise fill the humming air.

It's terrifying here, planes are zooming, whirling overhead
Dropping bombs, the sounds are filling me with dread.

Suggested Sensory Resources
Sand
White Material, soldiers hat
Plane/bomb Sound Effect
Suggested Movement Opportunities
Curled up on floor



We are trapped in Dunkirk in northern France
Retreating night and day, this is our last chance.

Desperately we lie here and stare at the empty seas
England and home, just a place in my memories.

Suggested Sensory Resources
Water Spray
Images of home
British Flag
Suggested Movement Opportunities
Marching on spot, in lines



I doze and dream about my family, friends and peace
I wonder as I wake when this awful war will cease.

There on the horizon, my eyes strain to see
It looks like a ship steaming through the sea.

Suggested Sensory Resources
Dream - Wave material
Pictures of family
Suggested Movement Opportunities
Lie then stand

Hand up to eyes, mime binoculars



We stand and shuffle into lines, waiting by the shore
A ship sails up and then explodes! I'm shaken to my core.

The Stukas scream and dive while we wait amidst the wrecks
Scared, cold and hungry soldiers, wondering what's next.

Suggested Sensory Resources
Cold air (fan)
Explosion sound effect
Suggested Movement Opportunities
Stand to attention in lines

Move up and down arms out (mime fly)



The big ships have to wait their turn to land at the mole
We need a miracle, the German planes keep taking their toll.

From out of the mist we start to see a thousand little ships
They sail straight up to the beach and do so many trips.

Suggested Sensory Resources
White fabric as mist
Water spray
Planes sound effect
Suggested Movement Opportunities
Arms in to chest, pointed forward as ship
Move forwards and backwards



Finally, I climb on board and collapse upon the stern
I look back at my comrades patiently waiting for their turn.

Suggested Sensory Resources
Water spray to legs
Hands in water
Water sound effect
Suggested Movement Opportunities
Climbing mime

Lie on back

About Sensory Stories

Sensory Stories are a combination of spoken words and sensory stimuli. Combining these elements creates a fun and engaging way of telling a narrative that meets the needs of all learners. Sensory stories bring the words to life through a multi-sensory approach ensuring the learners are active participants. It also promotes turn-taking, anticipation and learning to wait. Whilst in this story we use a less pleasant “whiff” none of the sensory stimuli should be aversive to the young person. If they display a negative reaction replace that element of the story. The ultimate aim is to inspire the young person to see the value in communicating.

I recommend stories be told to a group to promote positive interactions and sharing space and air with others. It is also a good idea to repeat the story to gain familiarity and a sense of anticipation.

Sensory elements recommended for use in this story.

Sensory Resources				
Sand	Smoke Effect (flour or icing sugar)	Plane sensory umbrella	Net Curtain (smoke)	White material (Smoke)
Yellow Material (sand)	Blue Material (Sea)	Red light (flames)	Fan	Water Spray
Sound Effects:				
Explosions				
Waves				
Planes				
Boat Ambiance				

Written by Joe White 2020

Images From wikipedia commons

More Sensory Stories available form [Inclusiveteach.com](https://www.inclusiveteach.com)