

**Audio Description Associates, LLC and the
American Council of the Blind's Audio Description Project
present**

***AUDIO DESCRIPTION:
Access for Students Who Are Blind***

with Joel Snyder, Ph.D.

***President, Audio Description Associates, LLC
Founder/Senior Consultant, Audio Description Project, ACB and***

AHEAD Webinar

September 12, 2022 – NOON-1:30 PM – presented virtually

American Audio



Description Symbol

the fan by John McPherson



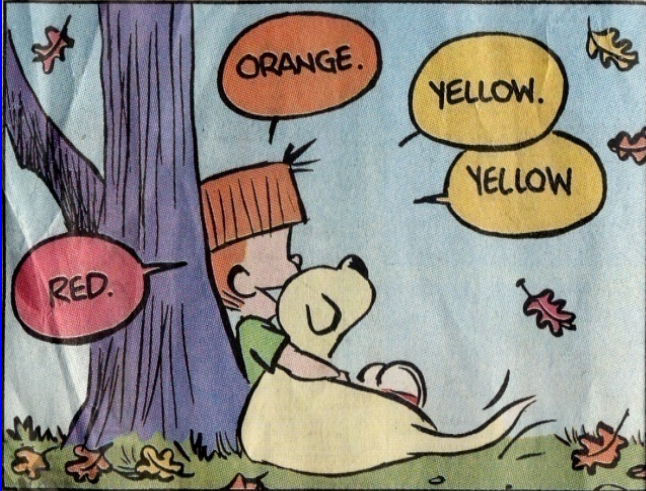
Many opera companies now provide interpreters for the culturally impaired.



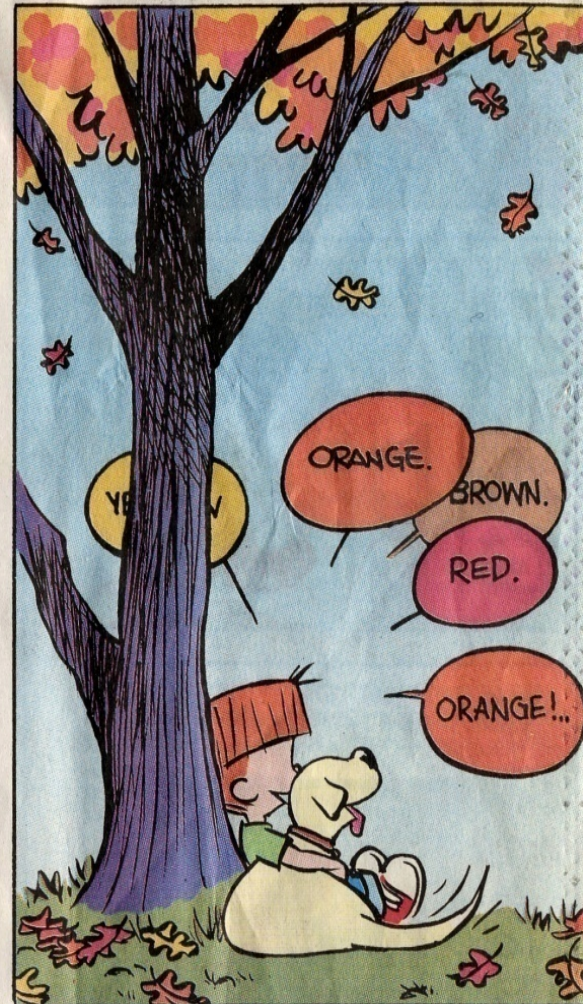
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AUDIO DESCRIPTION

A Definition

A verbal version of the visual – the visual is made verbal, and aural, and oral.

Using words that are succinct, vivid, imaginative, and objective, audio description conveys the visual image that is not fully accessible particularly for people who are blind or have low vision.

Color-w/o AD-w/o vid

Color of Paradise with AD-no video

ANNOTATED AUDIO DESCRIPTION SCRIPT FOR THE COLOR OF PARADISE

Cues in CAPS; descriptions preceded by ">>."

Annotations are in bold at right, keyed to numerals in description text.

Note: The appearance of the character "Mohammed" is described earlier in the film.

1 01:01:36:12 00:00:10:26 --:--:--:--
>> Mohammed kneels and taps his hands
through the thick ground cover of brown curled leaves. (1)

01:01:46:16 00:00:00:23 --:--:--:--
..[CHIRPING/RUSTLING :02]

3 01:01:48:16 00:00:04:04 --:--:--:--
>> A scrawny nestling struggles on the ground
near Mohammed's hand.

4 1:01:52:19 00:00:00:23 --:--:--:--
..[GASP/CHIRPING :02] (2)

501:01:54:19 00:00:15:00 --:--:--:--
>> His palm hovers above the baby bird. He lays his hand lightly
over the tiny creature. Smiling, Mohammed curls his fingers
around the chick and scoops (3)
it into his hands. He stands and strokes it nearly featherless head with
a fingertip.

1 – Color has been shown to be important to people with low vision, even people who are congenitally blind.

2 – Timing is critical in the crafting of description. We weave descriptive language around a film's sound elements.

3. – Vivid verbs help conjure images in the mind's eye.

6 01:02:08:12 00:00:00:23 --:--:--:--

...[CHIRPING/RUSTLE :01]

7 01:02:09:12 00:00:17:19 --:--:--:--

>> Mohammed starts as the bird nips his finger. He taps (4) his finger on the chick's gaping beak. He tilts (4) his head back, then drops it forward. Mohammed tips (4) the chick into his front shirt pocket. Wrapping his legs and arms around a tree trunk, Mohammed climbs.

8 01:02:28:10 00:00:01:04 --:--:--:--

...[HEAVY BREATHING/CLIMBING :11]

9 01:02:39:10 00:00:17:19 --:--:--:--

>> He latches onto a tangle of thin, upper branches. His legs flail for a foothold. Mohammed stretches an arm between a fork in the trunk of the tree and wedges in his head and shoulder. His shoes slip on the rough bark.

4. – Description, like much poetry, is written to be heard. Alliteration adds variety and helps to maintain interest.

Note: Throughout this excerpt, for the most part, descriptions are written to be read “in real time,” i.e., as the action being described occurs on screen. However, in many films descriptions may precede the action on occasion. This is a useful convention – it accommodates timing required in films with a great deal of dialogue and allows description users the opportunity to know “what happened” moments before the action occurs.

10 01:02:55:11 00:00:00:23 --:--:--:--
...[SCRAPING :03]

11 01:02:58:11 00:00:16:04 --:--:--:--
>> He wraps his legs around the lower trunk, then uses his arms to pull himself higher. He rises into thicker foliage and holds onto tangles of smaller branches. Gaining his footing, Mohammed stands upright and cocks his head to one side.

12 01:03:13:20 00:00:01:04 --:--:--:--
...[CHIRPING/FLUTTER]

13 01:03:18:15 00:00:10:15 --:--:--:--
>> An adult bird flies from a nearby branch. (5) Mohammed extends an open hand. He touches a branch and runs his fingers over wide, green leaves.

14 01:03:27:11 00:00:00:23 --:--:--:--
...[RUSTLING :03]

15 01:03:30:11 00:00:14:08 --:~:~:~:~:~
>> He pats his hand down the length of the branch. His fingers trace the smooth bark of the upper branches, search the network of connecting tree limbs, and discover their joints.

5- What to include? This image is important – the adult bird returns in the next scene.

16 01:03:43:20 00:00:00:23 --:--:--:--
...[RUSTLE :02]

17 01:03:45:20 00:00:05:06 01:03:50:26
>> Above his head, Mohammed's
fingers find a dense mass of
woven twigs--a bird's nest.

18 01:03:50:26 00:00:00:23 --:--:--:--
...[CHIRPING :03]

19 01:03:53:26 00:00:07:15 --:--:--:--
>> Smiling, he removes the chick
from his shirt pocket and drops
it gently into the nest beside
another fledgling.

20 01:04:01:00 00:00:00:23 --:--:--:--
...[CHIRPING :03]

21 01:04:03:04 00:00:13:04 --:--:--:--
>> He rubs the top of the
chick's head with his index **(6)**

finger. Mohammed wiggles his

finger like a worm **(7)** and taps a
chick's open beak. Smiling, he

slowly lowers his hand.

6 – Be specific. Precision creates images!

7 – Similes paint pictures!



“SEE THE BALL”



*American Council of the Blind's
Audio Description Project*

<https://adp.acb.org>

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21st ADP AD Institute: late February or early March 2023

Visit <https://adp.acb.org> for updates