DAWN KURTAGICH WORKSHEET

In the below pages, taken from my novel *The Dead House*, I have highlighted any sentence or word that

1. is associated with smell—the least used of all the senses in books
2. is a metaphor or simile (using other images to convey meaning via comparison or reference)
3. Any personification (applying human emotions to something non-human)
4. Any Absurdism (intentionally ridiculous or bizarre) / Surrealism
5. any visceral words or specific details that give the scene it’s meat

Two of the pages show examples of how you can use sound, or descriptions of sound, in a found-footage interview format to create tension, hesitation and more.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Identify what the highlighted sentences are (personification, metaphor, etc).
2. Pick any book of your choosing. Find each example of the items listed above and write them out. How do they add to the scenes in your chosen book?
3. (OPTIONAL) Write your own scene and apply the rules you’ve learned in our chat today and see how evocative and creepy you can make it. **Remember: sometimes withholding information and senses is what makes a scene creepy.**

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