

Building up tension to the main action

As they walked through the centre of the estate, they heard the sound of screeching tyres, the sound of a car being raced. It was just a block away and they could smell the burning rubber. The sound moved away from them, but then they heard the car turn, and the sound started heading their way. All three stepped on to a square paved area in the middle of the road where two of the small estate roads met and where once a bollard had stood. Then out of the dark, they saw a set of headlights approaching. The lights were on full beam, so they couldn't see the make of the car or the driver and it was coming fast and revving hard. The car went past the three, just missing them, then turned back towards them. Martin looked up at the high-rise flats and was amazed to find that there were no angry tenants cursing out of their windows. Mark was fearful and Matthew was just aggravated.

The car pulled up at the side of the concrete island. The smell of burning tyres entered their nostrils and caused all their eyes to water. The sound of the engines revving up made all three cover their ears for a moment, until the driver let the engine tick over.

Extract from *Face*: © Benjamin Zephaniah

1. Use different colours to underline phrases to do with:
 - ✓ Sound
 - ✓ Smell
 - ✓ Sight
2. What difference do the sounds, smells and sights make to us, the reader, in terms of how we understand the piece of writing?