



The task for this exercise is to simply describe what a character experiences as they step off of a bus.

Your character can be anybody you find interesting. Any age, gender, ethnicity, species...whatever you want. However, the experience should be filtered through the lens of the character's own context (their understanding, mindset, beliefs, etc.).

Here are some examples:

- This is an old school bus, in a decaying inner city, the character is a little girl wearing hand-me-down clothes, knowing that she has to walk home on her own 'cause momma is still busy cleaning Ms Burnett's apartment and can't be there to see her home.
- This is an airport shuttle bus and the woman stepping off is tired from a long trip, wearing the no nonsense polyester suit dress that's standard for FBI. Polyester doesn't pick up the smell of decay as easily as natural fabrics. The stench of the ten bodies that they found decaying in the walls of the drug house will linger long in memory.
- This is a city bus that has seen better days, and the old woman struggles to lower her wheeled shopping dolly down step-by-step. "See you next Thursday, Myrtle," says the driver. Myrtle catches her breath for a moment as the bus pulls back into traffic with the sad sigh of air breaks.

The goal is to write a paragraph that not only describes the action, but also reveals something about the character or their background.

*Note: This exercise was originally described by "allynh" on The Passive Voice ([www.thepassivevoice.com](http://www.thepassivevoice.com)), a "clearinghouse" for news about publishing, particularly indie publishing. Note that an old Writers Digest article may have inspired allynh's commentary.*