

The Senses:

INTRODUCTION

I love the phrase *mind's eye*. I think it should be joined in English vocabulary by *mind's ear*, *mind's skin*, *mind's tongue*, and *mind's nose*. Well-chosen words have the power to evoke the senses and invite us to see, hear, feel, taste, and smell the physical world. Although the term *imagery* suggests pictures only, most critics agree that words and phrases that call up other sensory experiences are images, too, in the sense that all of these are versions of *imaginative thought*.

The poems in this section are rich in diction that leads to imaginative thought. The poets use such specific language to describe their experiences that they move their poems beyond mere description to become our imaginative sights, sounds, textures, tastes, and aromas.