

# Imagery

## Consider:

A ripe guava is yellow, although some varieties have a pink tinge. The skin is thick, firm, and sweet. Its heart is bright pink and almost solid with seeds. The most delicious part of the guava surrounds the tiny seeds. If you don't know how to eat a guava, the seeds end up in the crevices between your teeth.

When you bite into a ripe guava, your teeth must grip the bumpy surface and sink into the thick edible skin without hitting the center. . . .

A green guava is sour and hard. You bite into it at its widest point, because it's easier to grasp with your teeth. You hear the skin, meat, and seeds crunching inside your head, while the inside of your mouth explodes in little spurts of sour.

— Esmeralda Santiago, *When I Was Puerto Rican*

## Discuss:

1. The imagery in the second sentence is simple and direct. What effects do such simplicity and directness have on the reader?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Santiago uses an adjective (*sour*) as a noun in her final image. What effect does this have on the meaning of the image?

## Apply:

Write a sentence which contains an image that captures the taste of something you hate. Your image should contain an adjective used as a noun. Share your image with a partner.