

Materials:

- Paper or notebook
- Pen or pencil
- Access to short reading selections (Examples provided below, or find others online/in books)
- Optional: Art supplies (crayons, markers) for drawing

Introduction: What's a Liminal Space? (10 mins)

Have you ever been somewhere that felt...in-between? Not quite here, not quite there? Like a hallway connecting two rooms, an empty waiting room, a foggy morning before the sun fully rises, or even the loading screen on a video game? These 'in-between' places are called **liminal spaces**. The word 'liminal' comes from the Latin word 'limen', which means threshold – like a doorway!

Think about it: A doorway isn't a room itself, but the space you pass through *between* rooms. Liminal spaces often feel a bit strange, quiet, maybe a little unsettling, or even magical because they are places of transition or waiting.

Discussion: Can you think of any places that feel like this? Why do they feel 'in-between'?

Reading Activity: Exploring Liminality in Text (20-25 mins)

Authors often use descriptions of liminal spaces to create a specific mood or feeling in their stories. Let's look at a few short examples. Read each one and think about the *feeling* it gives you.

Example 1 (A Hallway): "The hotel hallway stretched on, seemingly forever. The patterned carpet muffled any sound, and the doors, all identical, seemed to hold their breath. Soft, dim lights hummed overhead, casting long, faint shadows. It felt like walking through a paused moment, waiting for something to happen just around the bend."

Example 2 (Dusk): "The time between day and night, dusk, settled over the town. Streetlights flickered on, but the sky still held streaks of orange and purple. Shadows deepened, blurring the edges of buildings. It wasn't quite dark, but the familiar shapes of the day were melting away into something mysterious."

Example 3 (An Empty Playground at Night): "Swings swayed gently in a breeze nobody could feel. The metal slide gleamed faintly under the distant moon. Usually filled with laughter, the playground was now silent, deserted, waiting for morning. It felt like a secret place, holding memories of daytime fun but existing now in a quiet, watchful state."

Discussion Questions:

- What words did the author use to make these places feel 'in-between' or liminal?
- What mood (e.g., creepy, peaceful, mysterious, tense) did each description create? How?
- Why do you think an author might choose to set a scene in a liminal space? What effect does it have on the story or the reader?

Creative Response: Your Liminal Space (15-20 mins)

Now it's your turn!

1. Think of a liminal space – either a real one you know or one you imagine. It could be an empty airport terminal late at night, a staircase between floors, a foggy field, the moment just before you fall asleep, etc.
2. Write a short paragraph (3-5 sentences) describing this space. Focus on using descriptive

words (adjectives, adverbs) to create a specific mood. Think about senses: What do you see, hear, feel (physically or emotionally)?

3. Optional: Draw the liminal space you described.

Wrap-up (5 mins)

Share your description or drawing. Briefly discuss: What makes liminal spaces interesting to read about or experience? They are fascinating because they represent change, waiting, and the 'space between' defined moments!