

Colors

In this lesson, we'll be taking a look at
Colors.

Estimated Completion Time: 18 minutes.

Colors

Colors are a way to convey mood in photographs. But how best to use color to improve your photographs?

I think the best advice is to look for something unexpected. Something out of the ordinary. Maybe it is some sharply contrasting colors. Maybe it is something that appears impossibly red on a dull background. Maybe it is color similarity that draws your interest.



Red is a brilliant color, one that never fails to draw attention and evoke emotion (F/5.6, 1/50 sec, ISO 400).

Colors

It can take practise to get color right in a photo. So, once again, take a lot of shots. Delete a lot if you need to.

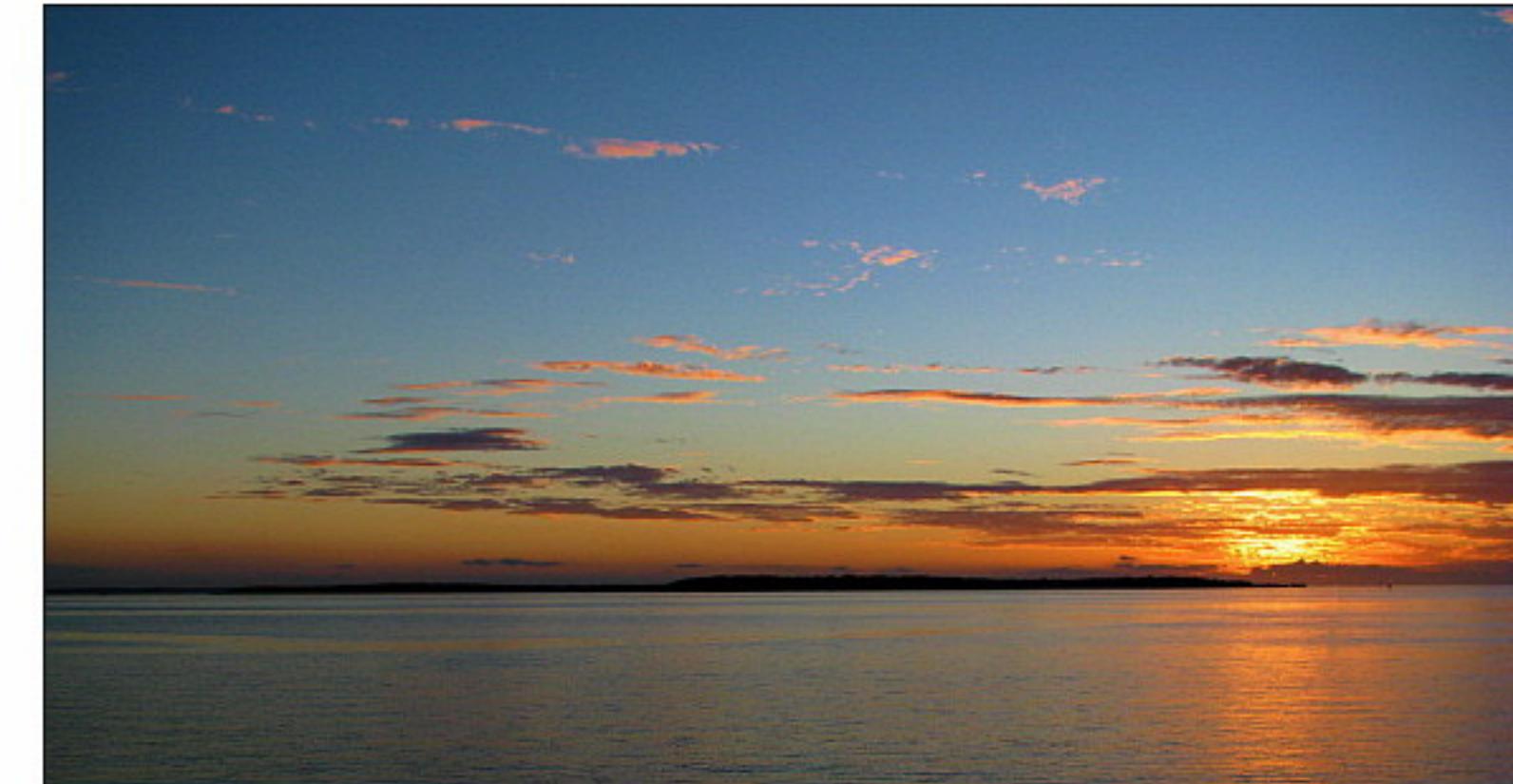
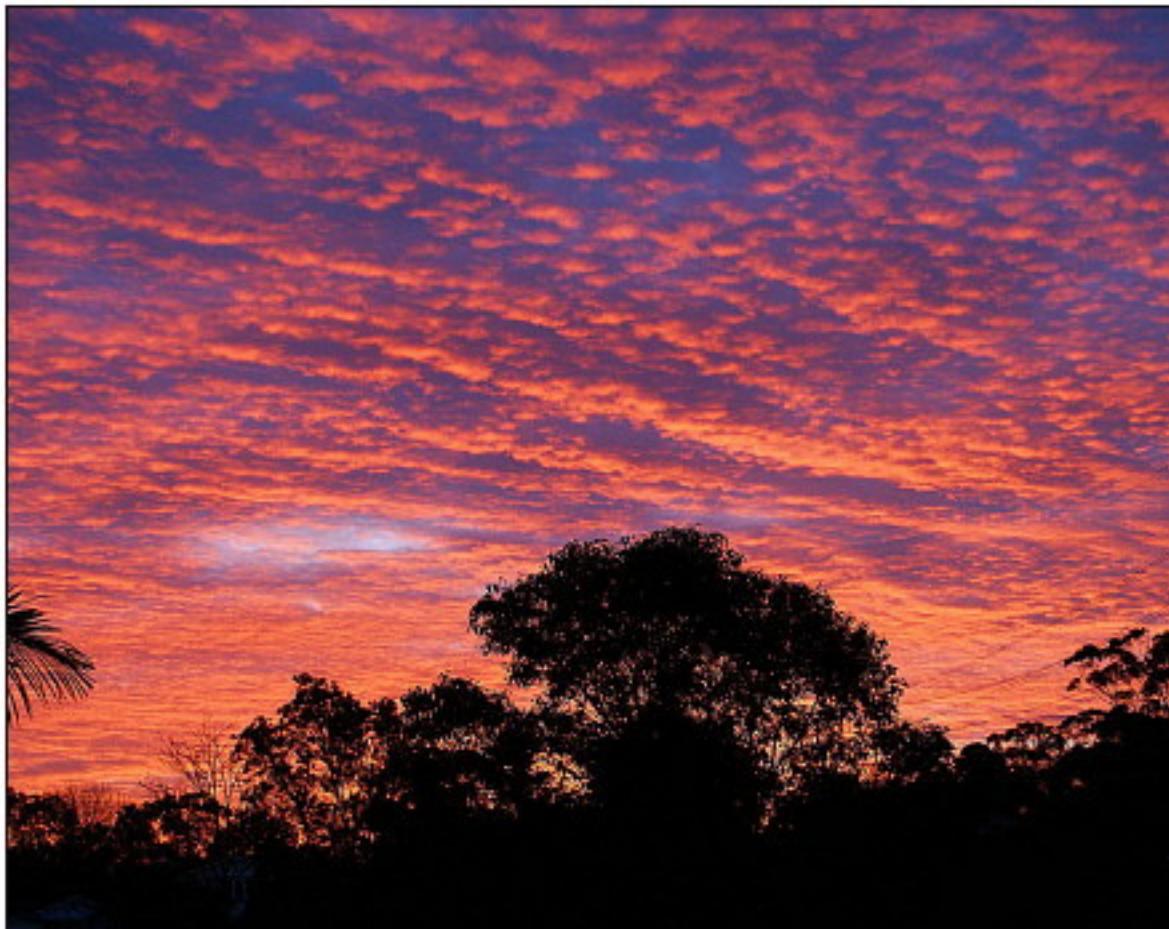
Like all 'artistic' photos, it can take the right place, at the right time, to get that right shot. But they are everywhere - once you *really* look.



*Here we have the interesting similarity of the greens - yet the wildly contrasting red beak also draws the eye
(F/5.6, 1/125 sec, ISO 400).*

Colors

Talking about being in the right place at the right time, a sunset is almost always the right time, no matter where you are.



Nothing beats the incredible color you'll get at sunset (F/4, 1/320 sec, ISO 80).

Colors

Use the following examples as a source for ideas - for inspiration. Then try it for yourself...



Autumn leaves have long been a photographers favorite, and for good reason. The colors are fantastic (F/4.7, 1/206 sec, ISO 400).

Colors



Colors



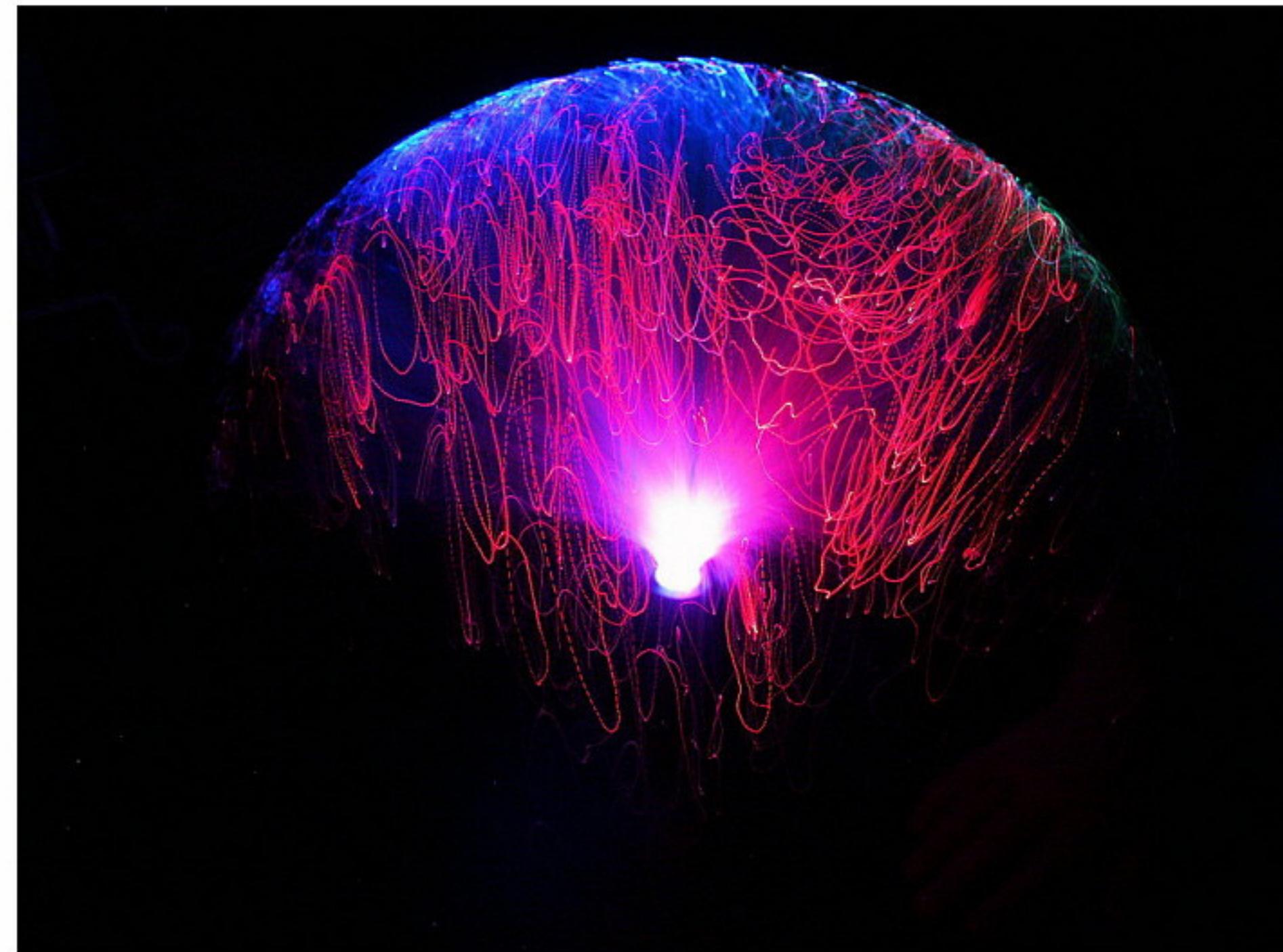
The colors of this leaf contrast well with the brown background (F/3, 1/68 sec, ISO 400).

Colors



A set-up on the beach. (F/9.5, 1/750 sec, ISO 100).

Colors



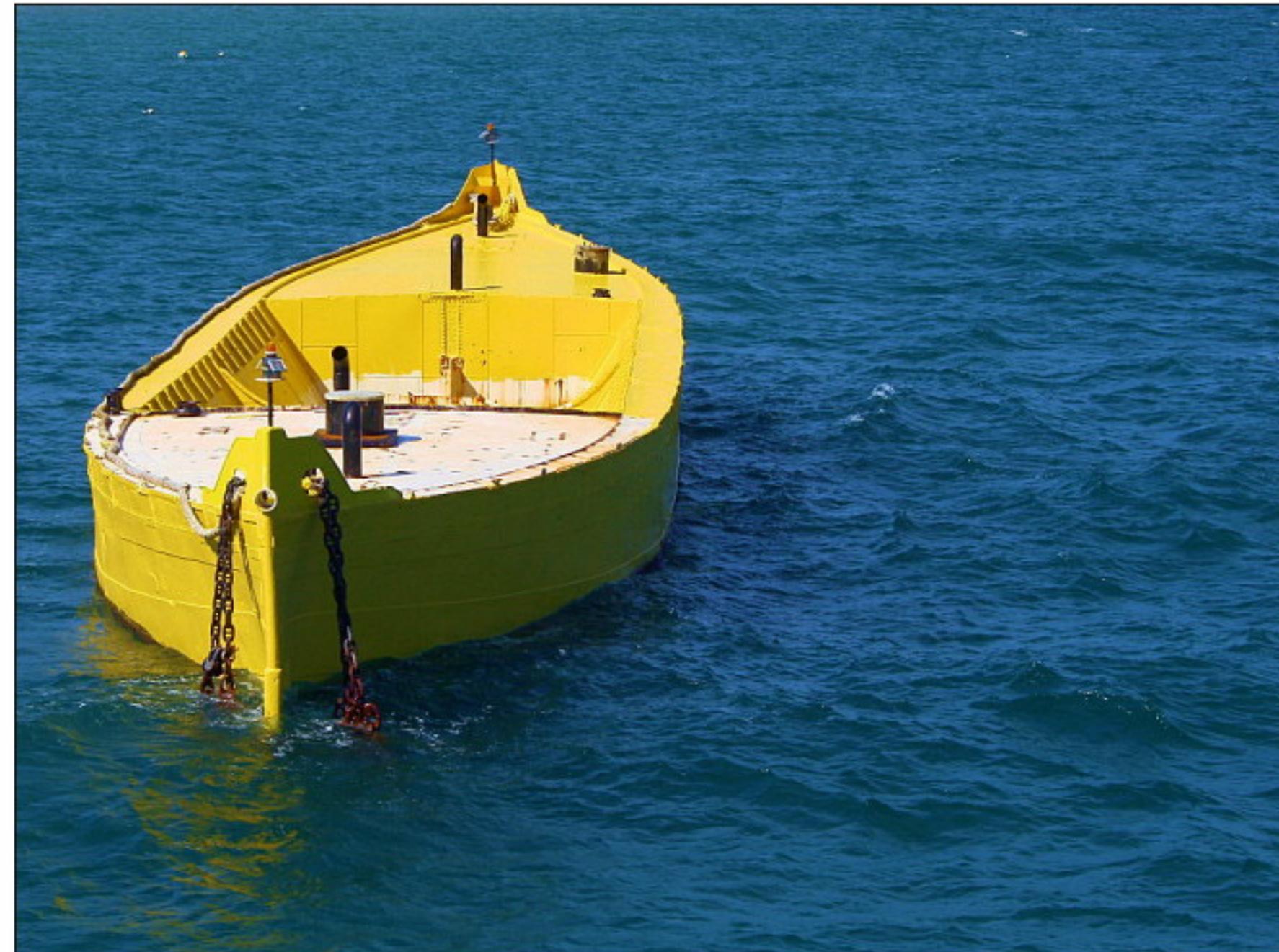
Long exposure on fibre optic lamp. (F/2.8, 1 sec, ISO 200).

Colors



The color on the face picks up the color in the eyes beautifully (F4, 1/180 sec, ISO 200).

Colors



It isn't that often that such colorful things appear on dark backgrounds. Take advantage!
(F/13, 1/320 sec, ISO 200).

Colors



The splash of red in each of these photos makes a real impact.

Colors



A different, but effective approach - a study in green.

Colors



Sometimes the shot of a single color theme can be very effective.

Colors



Sometimes the shot of a single color theme can be very effective.

Colors



A great color shot (F/8, 1/320 sec, ISO 80).

Colors



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You'll find great color even in your own backyard.

Colors



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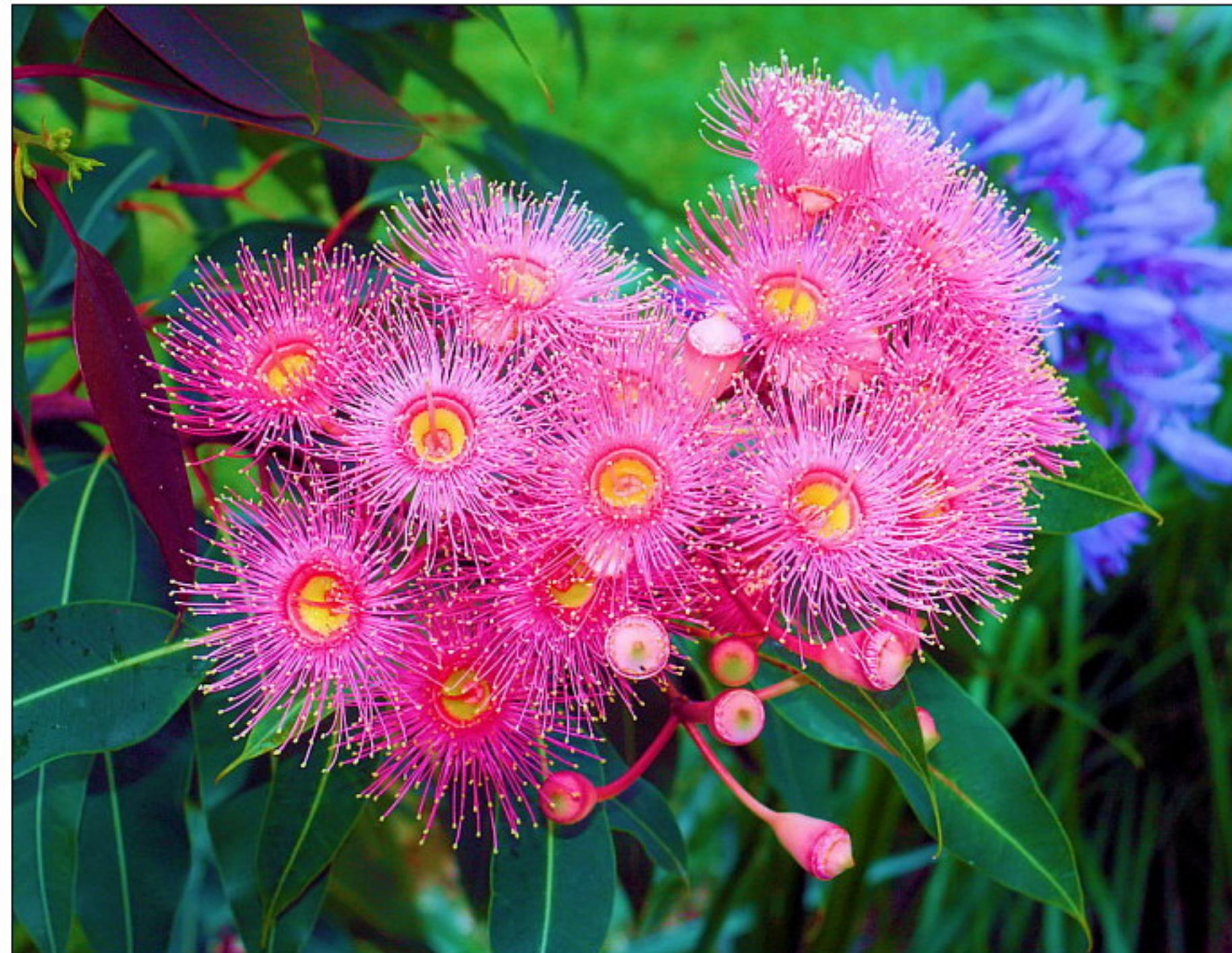
Amazing golden mushrooms.

Colors



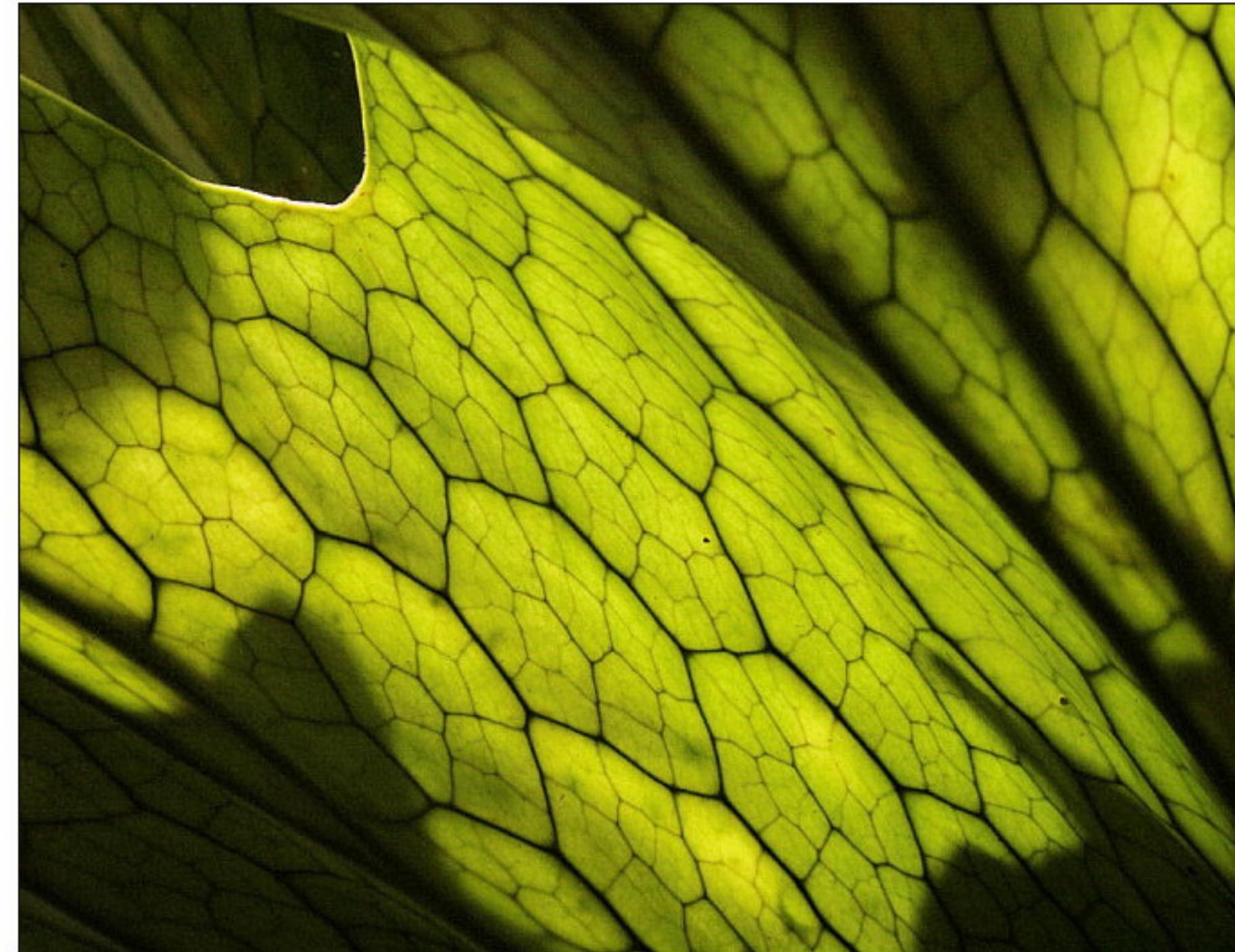
The colors and perspective combine well here.

Colors



We enhanced the colors on this a little - but the green, red and blue work well.

Colors



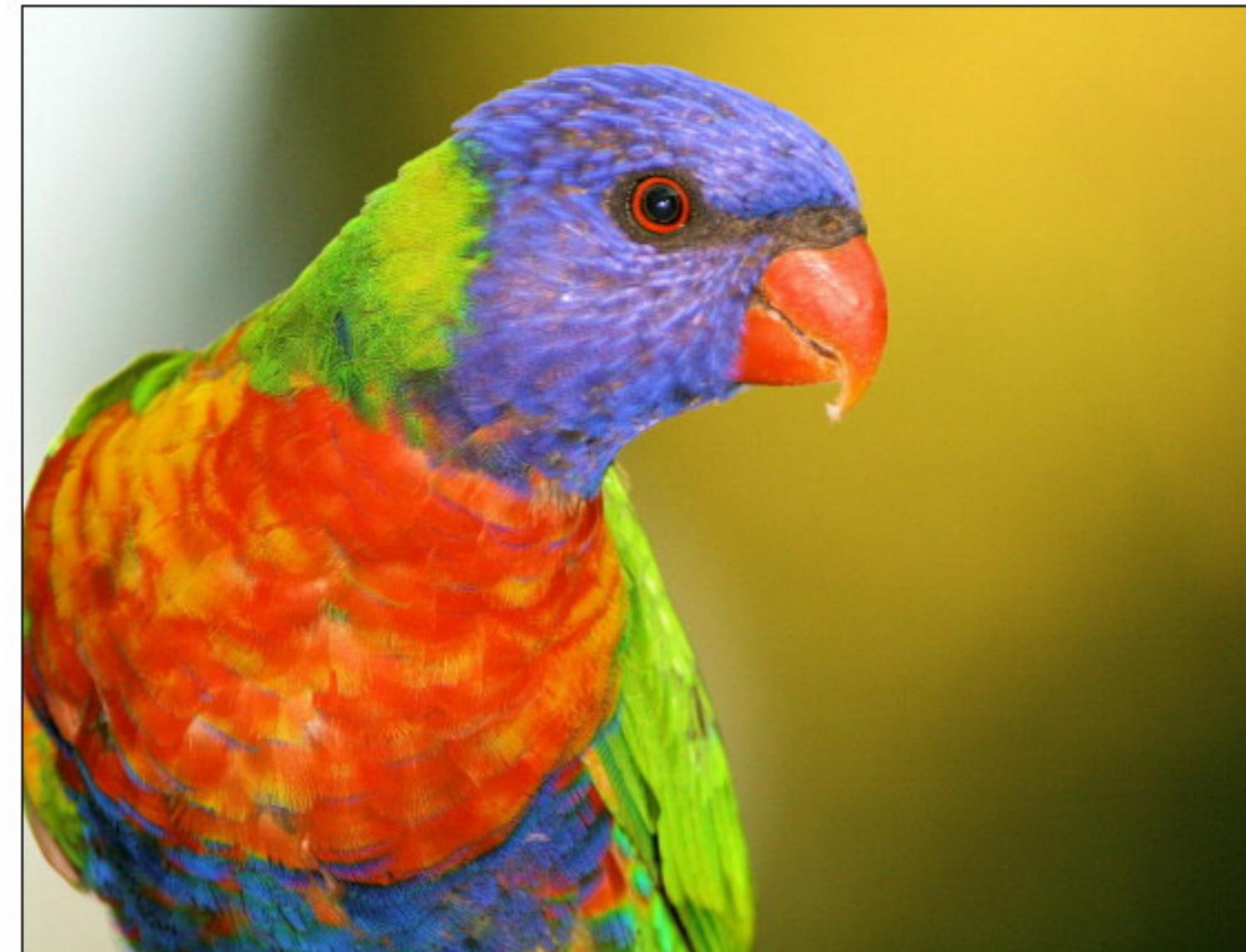
Try getting the sun shining through leaves for some great colors (F/14, 1/250 sec, ISO 400).

Colors



Colors

Light. Color is all about light, and wouldn't exist without it. For vibrant color, use good lighting, or a flash. The darker an image, the less color is captured.



Color requires light (F/5.6, 1/200 sec, ISO 800).

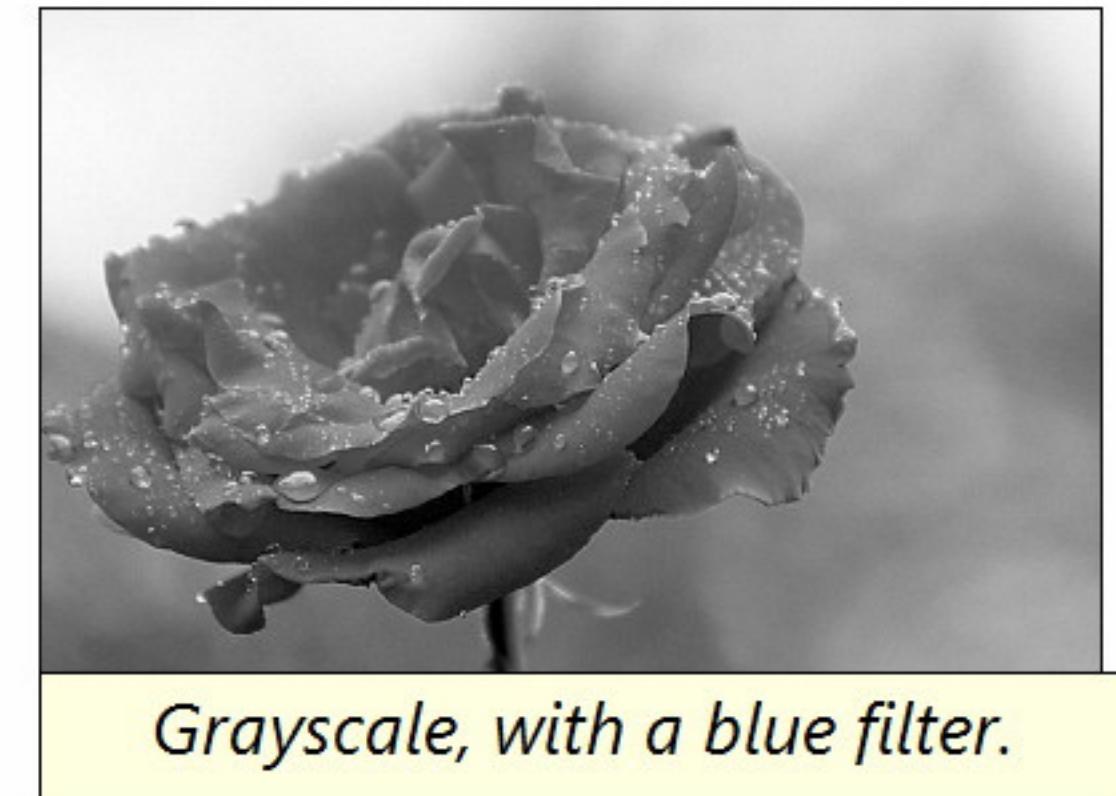
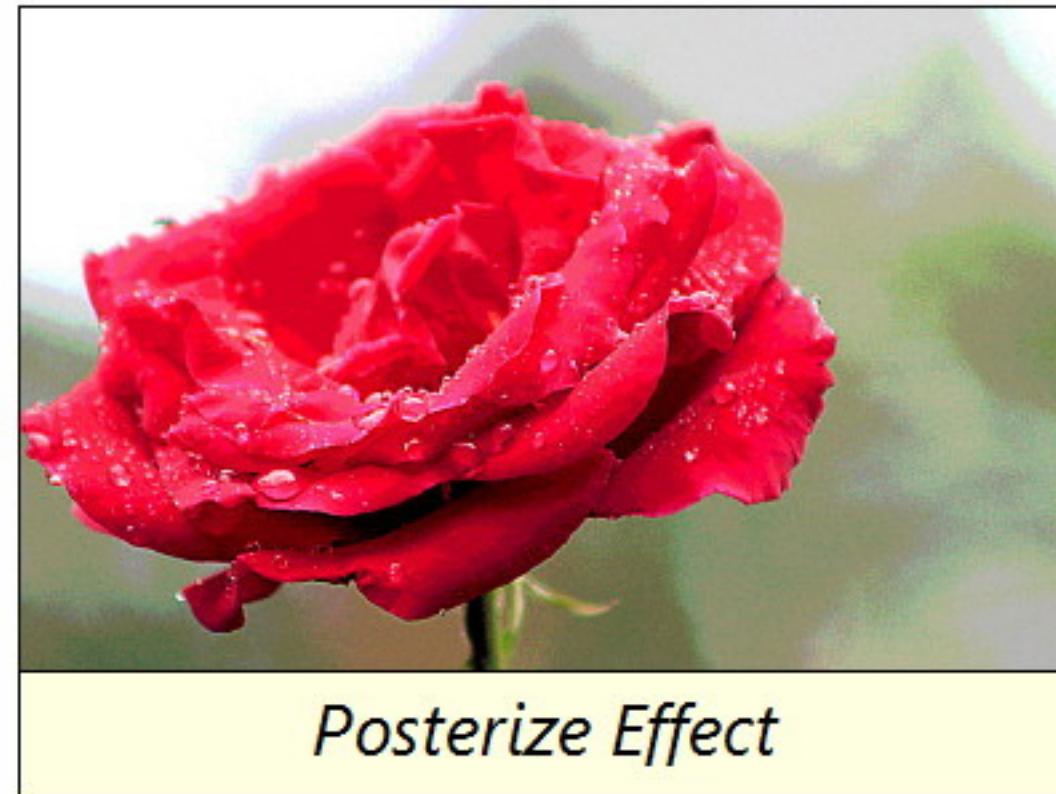
Colors

Saturation. You can use software to increase the color, or saturation of your images. This allows you to really take a color and make it pop off the screen.

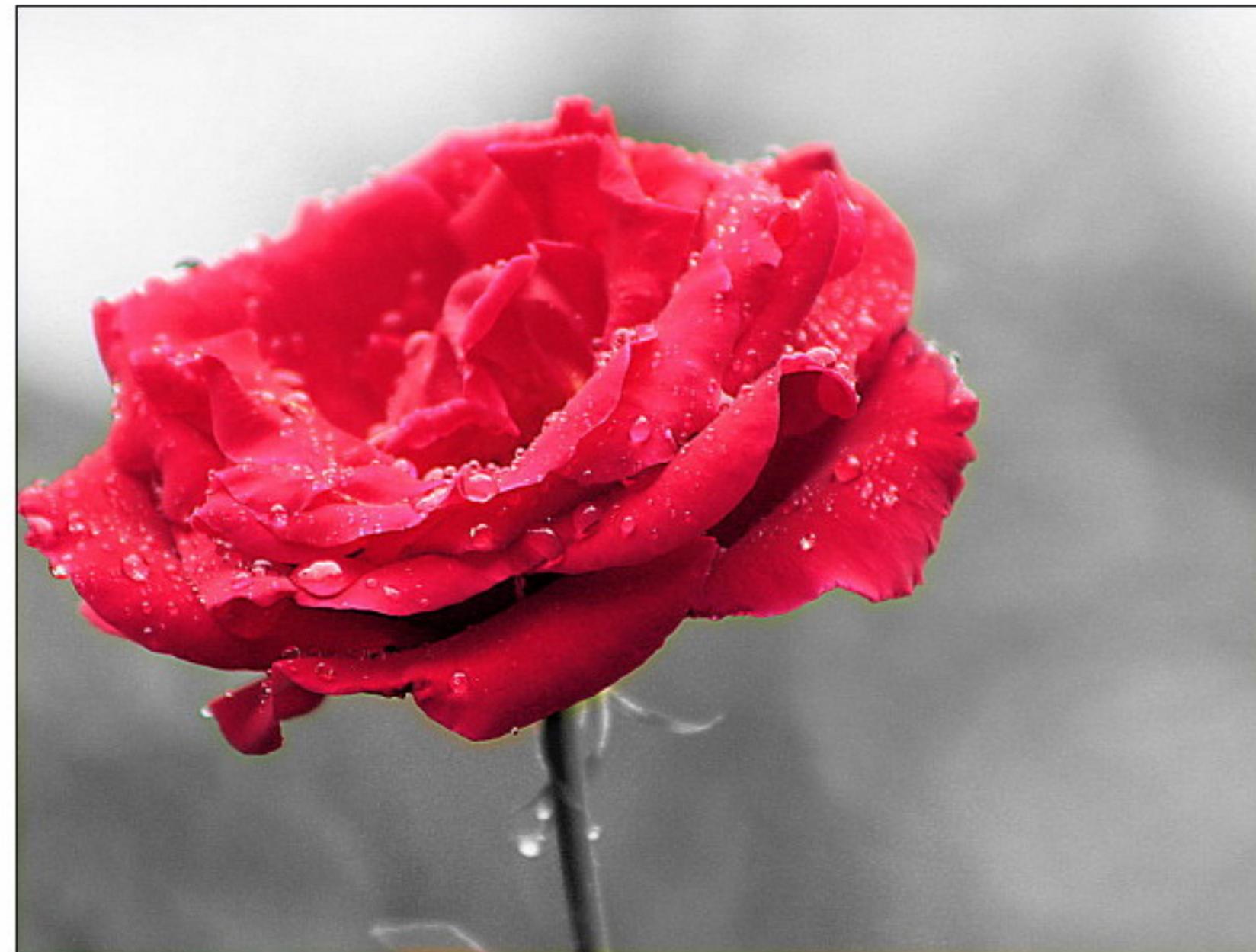


Colors

Color Effects. In graphics editing software, you'll be able to apply a range of effects that alter the color of an image.

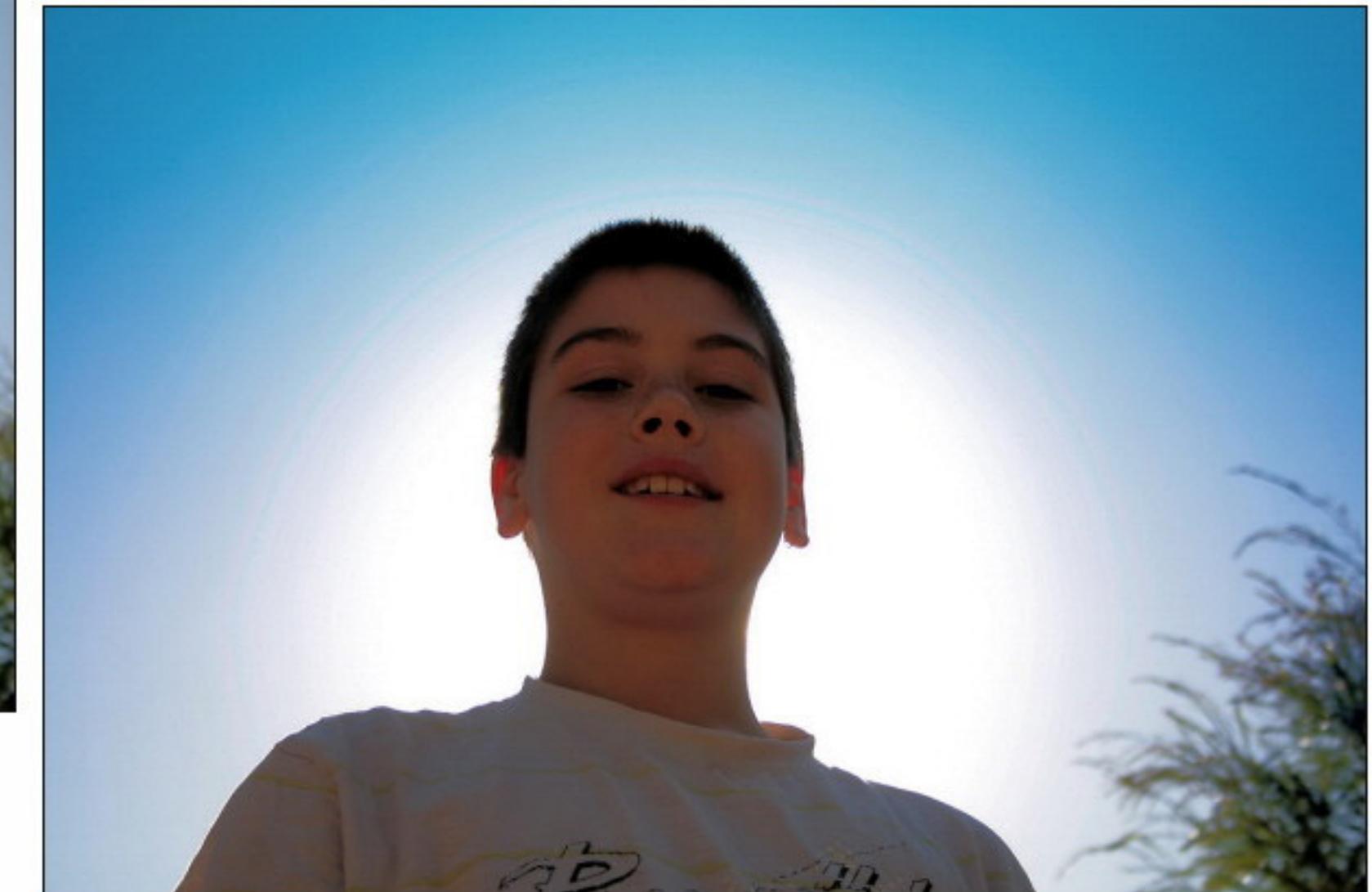
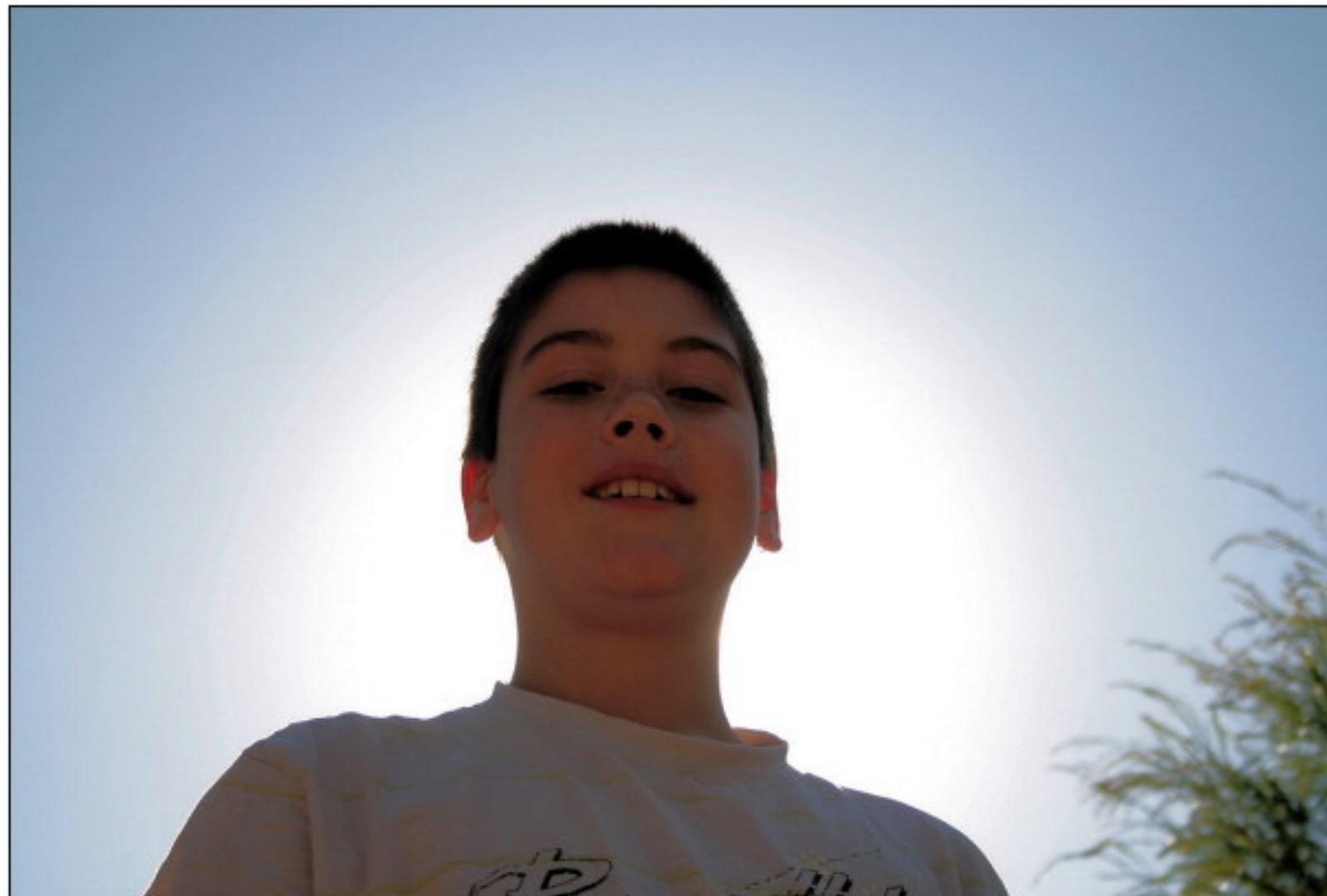


Colors



*Here we used features found in **Corel Paint Shop Pro** to 'select' the background. This was achieved using a magic wand effect, which selects regions based on color. We then turned this selected area to grayscale to get this spot color effect.*

Colors



*Graphics programs like **Photoshop** allow you to modify color in a range of ways. Here, we've taken the image on the left, and within seconds, we've made the sky bluer...*

Colors

You've now completed this lesson.

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