

Fill the gaps with the right forms of the verbs (sometimes it is necessary to use the passive):

Golden Prague

The city always _____ (be) called Golden Prague. When I first _____ (see) it, in 1975, it was gold - misty, hazed with late afternoon sun which _____ (strike) the dust of the tall grave windows of old apartment houses and _____ (pick) up the glint of the gilt knobs of the Powder Tower and the decoration of the art nouveau buildings. The air itself _____ (seem) golden, as if the haze _____ (be) filtered through a thin gauze of gilt mesh. This, I _____ (think), is the gold that floods the backgrounds of medieval religious paintings, the gold of icons which _____ (take) the place of the more modern technique of perspective.

I _____ (take) with the gold. The gold of the medieval paintings, but especially the gold of the city, the way the city _____ (seem) to glint. I _____ (ask) someone I _____ (meet) in a coffee-house about this strange, glittery light. He _____ (say) it was pollution and I _____ (suppose) it is. But the initial impression _____ (remain).

(A Romantic Education by Patricia Hampl. Houghton Mifflin Company 1992, p. 215)