

Wester Hailes – English Department

S2 Home Learning Materials

Week beginning 22 February 2020

Please complete the tasks on paper/computer/tablet over the course of the next 2 school weeks.

e-mail a picture to your teacher when you are finished for marking:

- Maria.cemborain@whec.edin.sch.uk



Word Choice

Learning Intention: To understand the effect of a writer's word choice.

Quite often writers choose to use particular words in order to create an effect or to show their feelings on a certain topic.

Thinking about Synonyms

Often writers may have a variety of similar words they can choose from to get their point across. For example:

Happy = Joyful, Ecstatic ...

Task 1:

What is the difference in the meaning of the below sentences?

- A) The boy was happy because he had won the race.
- B) The boy was ecstatic because he had won the race.

Task 2

For each of the words below, write down a more powerful word a writer could use to get their point across:

1. Sad
2. Boring
3. Interesting
4. Nice
5. Pretty
6. Funny
7. Scared

What is word choice?

When certain words are very carefully and deliberately chosen to for a particular effect, or to suggest particular meanings.

Connotation and Denotation

When we analyse words, we explore:

- The CONNOTATIONS of the word - this means the associations it has/the images it creates in your mind
- The DENOTATION is what the word actually means – its literal meaning

For example: Red

Denotation: It is a colour

Connotations: Danger, Anger, Love

Task 3:

Write down your own connotations for the words below:

1. Sun
2. Work
3. Blue
4. Snake
5. Sneer
6. Spy
7. Laugh
8. Thrilling

Denotation and Connotation

It is important to understand the denotation and connotations of words.

Denotation means the literal or primary meaning of a word.

Connotation means the ideas and feelings we associate with a word. See example below:

Home	
	
Denotation: The place where one lives permanently, especially as a member of a family or household.	Connotations: family, comfort, warmth, cosy

Task 4:

Colour Connotations:

Colours have lots of connotations. For each of the below colours, write down of the emotions and associations you make with that colour.

- Black 
- Red 
- Yellow 
- Blue 

Positive and Negative Connotations

Connotations can be positive (good) or negative (bad)

For example:

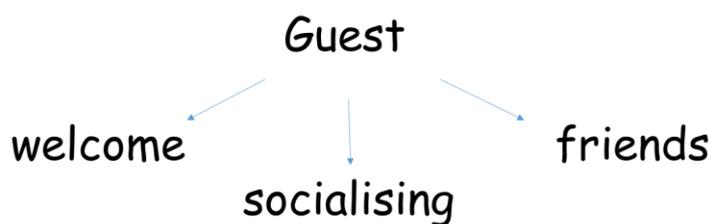
Guest vs Intruder

Slim vs Skinny

Ditsy vs Stupid

How to analysis word Connotations

To help us to work out if a connotation is positive or negative, we can draw a connotation tree to help us



Task 5

Make a connotation tree (Like the one above) for each of the words below

1. Criminal
2. Dog
3. Snake
4. Wealthy
5. Snob

Challenge Tasks:

Task 6:

Look at the following sentences and decide whether you think they are positive or negative statements. Circle the correct answer.

a) The models looked skinny as they walked down the runway.

Positive/Negative

b) The models looked slim as they walked down the runway.

Positive/Negative

c) The models looked toned as they walked down the runway.

Positive/Negative

d) The models looked scrawny as they walked down the runway.

Positive/Negative



Task 7:

Look at sentence d) from task 1: *“The models looked scrawny as they walked down the runway.”*

Question:

What are the connotations of the word scrawny?

What does it make you think of?

What do you associate with the word?

Scrawny has connotations of:

Therefore, how do you think the writer feels towards the models/runway show/fashion industry?

Learning Intention:

- I understand how to put information into my own words.
- I can answer a question about what I have read and answer using my own words.

Synonyms

Task 1:

What is a synonym? Write a definition below (if you are unsure you could look this up in a dictionary or online).

Task 2:

Write down as many synonyms as you can for each of the below words:

1. Amazing
2. Angry
3. Bad
4. Bright
5. Calm
6. Cry
7. Dangerous
8. Hurry

Putting information into your own words:

Task 1:

Change the word or phrase in bold using different words that mean the same thing. You can change the word order of the other words, if it helps.

(You can also use a dictionary, if you want.)

1. The weather outside is awful.
2. The audience clearly enjoyed the show.
3. The boy was ecstatic when he was given his ne PS5!
4. The man's face was red with rage.
5. The little girl had a tantrum because her mum refused to buy her sweets.
6. The girl was over the moon when she won 1st place in her dance competition.

Own Words Practice Questions:

How to answer:

1. Find the information that answers the question and underline it.
2. Rephrase into your own words and write your answer.

Use above steps to read the following extracts and answer the questions below each in your own words.

1.

Question: Explain using your own words what the problem was. (Hint: The key information has been highlighted for you).

2. Below is an extract from the novel 'Skellig'. It describes how a boy named Michael and his family move into a new house. Michael goes out to the garage to explore and finds a strange man who seems to have been there for a long time.

I nearly got into the garage that Sunday morning. I took my own torch and shone it in. The outside doors to the back lane must have fallen off years ago and there were dozens of massive planks nailed across the entrance. **The timbers holding the roof were rotten and the roof was sagging in.** The bits of the floor you could see between the rubbish were full of cracks and holes. **The people that took the rubbish out of the house were supposed to take it out of the garage as well, but they took one look at the place and said they wouldn't go in it even for danger money.** There were old chests of drawers and broken wash-basins and bags of cement, ancient doors leaning against the walls, deck chairs with the cloth seats rotted away. Great rolls of rope and cable hung from nails. Heaps of water pipes and great boxes of rusty nails were scattered on the floor. Everything was covered in dust and spiders' webs. There was mortar that had fallen from the walls. There was a little window in one of the walls, but it was filthy and there were rolls of cracked lino standing in front of it. The place stank of rot and dust. Even the bricks were crumbling like they couldn't bear the weight anymore. **It was like the whole thing was sick of itself and would collapse in a heap and have to get bulldozed away.**

Answer the own words questions below (Hint: the information you need to answer the questions is highlighted for you.)

- A) In your **own words** describe what the entrance to the garage and the roof looks like.
- B) In your **own words** explain why the garage had not been cleared out.
- C) In your **own words** describe what Michael thinks will happen to the garage.

