



ELA Virtual Learning

8th Grade ELA

Connotation & Denotation

April, 22, 2020



Grade/Course
Lesson: April 22, 2020

Objective/Learning Target:

I can determine the connotative and denotative meaning of words in their context.

Essential Question:

How can understanding the connotative meaning of words deepen your understanding of the text?

Warm Up

For today's warm up you will need a piece of notebook paper and something to write with.

You will be watching a video that will explain what **connotation** and **denotation** mean. It will also give you examples.

As you watch [this video](#) you will need to:

1. Create a T-chart: one side Connotation, the other side Denotation.
2. Write down the terms.
3. Write down the definitions for each term.
4. Write down the example used.
5. Leave room for a summary of your notes.





Warm Up - Possible T - Chart

Connotation	Denotation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The intended meaning of a word• It can be positive or negative• CON-notation like CON-text	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A word's exact meaning• DE-notation like DEF-inition• Use the dictionary to find the definition for denotation (this was not in the video)

As a writer, I can choose the word that will tell the reader exactly what I mean.

IT ALL DEPENDS ON THE CONTEXT IN WHICH I USE IT.

EXAMPLES:

*The dog lapped water out of his bowl getting slobber all over Tiffany's shoes. **Lapped = Negative**

Connotation

*Bobby wanted to throw his controller across the room after his friend lapped him in Mario Kart.

Lapped=Positive Connotation

Angelica's performance at the recital was just lovely. **Lovely = Positive Connotation

The cat knocked over the flower vase. Just lovely. **Lovely = Negative Connotation

Warm Up (continued)

Now that you've watched the video and taken notes, you should be able to explain the difference between connotation and denotation, and give an example.

Quick Write:

Using complete sentences, **summarize the difference between connotation and denotation**. Can you ALSO come up with an example of your own??? Try it...Choose one word of your own and write down the connotation of that word as well as the denotation. It's ok to use the [dictionary](#) for help.





Warm Up - Possible Answers

Possible Quick Write Response:

The main difference between connotation and denotation is all about how a word is used in a sentence and what the sentence is about. The connotation of a word can be either positive or negative. But the denotation of a word is its exact meaning;from the dictionary.

Example:

The new couch was very cheap, so it fell apart after my brother jumped on it. **NEGATIVE**

Connotation

My new shoes were cheap, so I had enough money left over to buy a dress too.

POSITIVE Connotation

Now let's test out what you've learned by reading two poems and focus on word meaning.

1. Read the following poems by Wild and Morely to see what meanings they have for roaches, yes roaches. 😊
2. Write down the words that you think reveal either negative or positive connotation.
3. Then answer the questions that follow the poems.

Roaches

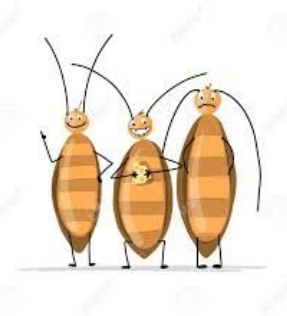
Last night when I got up to let the dog out I spied a cockroach in the bathroom crouched flat on the cool porcelain, delicate antennae probing the toothpaste cap and feasting himself on a gob of it in the bowl: I killed him with one unprofessional blow, scattering arms and legs and half his body in the sink...

I would have no truck with roaches, crouched like lions in the ledges of sewers their black eyes in the darkness alert for tasty slime, breeding quickly and without design, laboring up drain pipes through filth to the light;

I read once they are among the most antediluvian of creatures, surviving everything, and in more primitive times thrived to the size of your hand...

yet when sinking asleep or craning at the stars, I can feel their light feet probing in my veins, their whiskers nibbling the insides of my toes; and neck arched, feel their patient scrambling up the dark tubes of my throat.

--Peter Wild



from Nursery Rhymes for the Tender-hearted

Scuttle, scuttle, little roach
How you run when I approach:
Up above the pantry shelf
Hastening to secrete yourself.

Most adventurous of vermin,
How I wish I could determine
How you spend your hours of ease,
Perhaps reclining on the cheese.

Cook has gone, and all is dark-
Then the kitchen is your park;
In the garbage heap that she leaves
Do you browse among the tea leaves?

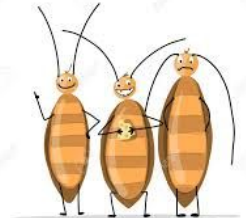
How delightful to suspect
All the places you have trekked:
Does your long antenna whisk its
Gentle tip across the biscuits?

Do you linger, little soul, Drowsing in our sugar bowl? Or,
abandonment most utter, Shake a shimmy on the butter?

Do you chant your simple tunes Swimming in the baby's
prunes? Then, when dawn comes, do you slink Homeward
to the kitchen sink?

Timid roach, why be so shy? We are brothers, thou and I,
In the midnight, like yourself, I explore the pantry shelf!

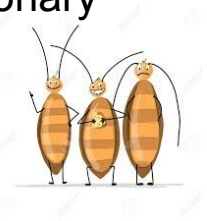
--Christopher Morley



Practice

*On the back of your notes, answer these questions based on your knowledge of the **denotation of the word “cockroach”**.*

1. Look at the denotation of the word cockroach. [Dictionary.com](https://www.dictionary.com)
 - a. What characteristics in the definition do **BOTH** poets include in their poems?
 - b. What characteristics does Morley give to roaches that are **NOT** in the dictionary definition?
 - c. What characteristics does Wild give his roaches that are **NOT** in the dictionary definition?

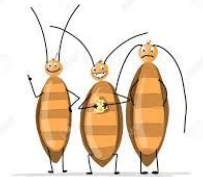


Practice

Lastly, answer these questions based on your knowledge of the connotation of cockroaches in both poems.

In each poem, the insect acquires meaning beyond its dictionary definition. Both poets lead us away from a literal view of roaches to a nonliteral one.

2. Which poet succeeds in giving roaches favorable connotations? What positive connotations are given to the cockroach?
3. Which poet comes closer to expressing your own feelings about roaches? Cite 2 pieces of text from the poem that best expresses your viewpoint.





Practice Answers

1. **Denotation of cockroach:** any of numerous orthopterous insects of the family Blattidae, characterized by a flattened body, rapid movements, and nocturnal habits and including several common household pests.
 - a. What characteristics in the definition do BOTH poems include in their poems? *Both poems talk about cockroaches coming out at night.*
 - b. What characteristics does Morley give to roaches that are NOT in the dictionary definition? *Morley says they are adventurous, they have secretions, they are timid and shy, and they love to inspect and possibly eat human food.*
 - c. What characteristics does Wild give his roaches that are NOT in the dictionary definition? *Wild says they have black eyes, they seek the light, they have whiskers and probing feet, they are survivors of anything.*



Practice Answers

In each poem, the insect acquires meaning beyond its dictionary definition. Both poets lead us away from a literal view of roaches to a nonliteral one.

2. Which poet succeeds in giving roaches favorable connotations? *Christopher Morley gives roaches favorable, or positive, connotations.*

What positive connotations are given to the cockroach? *He says they scuttle, and refers to them as “little roach”, he also says it’s delightful to suspect all the places he’s been to in the kitchen. He also refers to him as “little soul” and goes on to say they are brothers because he too is up in the night searching for a snack.*



Practice Answers

In each poem, the insect acquires meaning beyond its dictionary definition. Both poets lead us away from a literal view of roaches to a nonliteral one.

3. Which poet comes closer to expressing your own feelings about roaches? Cite 2 pieces of text from the poem that best expresses your viewpoint. *The author, Peter Wild comes closer to expressing how I feel about cockroaches compared to Morley. In the poem he says, "Last night when I got up to let the dog out I spied a cockroach in the bathroom crouched flat on the cool porcelain...." I can imagine that finding a roach in the middle of the night when you're least expecting it would cause anyone to be scared. It seems that when I am least expecting it, I see a cockroach, and everytime it makes me jump and scares me because it just shouldn't be there! Also, the entire last stanza is something I can relate to; "...their whiskers nibbling the insides of my toes...." I have let my imagination get the best of me and think there's something crawling on me, their feet and whiskers on my skin.*

