

Connotation Lesson

Denotation: the dictionary definition of a word.

Example: the words, childish, childlike and youthful have the same denotative meaning. They all refer to someone have the qualities of a child.

Connotation: The associations and implications we attach to a word. We say words have a positive connotation or a negative connotation. Some words are neutral, evoking neither positive or negative feelings.

Examples:

- **Childish** has a negative implication or association. (being selfish or immature)
- **Youthful** has a positive implication or association. (lively and energetic)
- **Childlike** is probably, for most people, more neutral. (being childlike can be a compliment or an insult, depending on the context).

What are some words with a positive connotation? Negative connotation?

Positive	Negative
Home, mansion, cottage, suite, hotel, bedroom	Shack, ghetto, slum, cave, prison, jail, motel
Sunny, blue skies, breeze	Storm, rain, lightening, earthquake, wind
Heaven, angels, god	Hell, demons, Satan, devil,
Spring, summer	Winter
Silver, gold	Asbestos, uranium
Sink, fall, trip, rip, tear, lie, deceive, cry, drag, hate, attack, belittle, etc.	Hop, skip, dance, sing, heal, mend, love, smile, laugh, forgive, etc.

Point of emphasis: Writers use connotation to convey mood, tone and themes.

Write a connotation poem in your composition book.

1. Setting
2. Character
3. An action
4. A conflict
5. Shift: a glimpse into the future (switch connotation from + to – OR – to +

1. Winter fell on the gray shack.
2. An icy skeleton of a man
3. Dragging his soul behind the cold walls
4. Night is black
5. One day a bloom will spring from his green earth. Shift

Underlined words have a negative connotation; double underlined words have a positive connotation.