

Creative Writing 2

Class Recap

Class Recap: The Power of Word Choice

Today, we became word scientists, discovering that every single word has two layers of meaning: its dictionary definition and its hidden emotional feeling.

- **Denotation:** The literal, dictionary definition of a word (e.g., walked means 'moved on foot').
- **Connotation:** The emotional feeling or association a word suggests (e.g., slunk suggests a negative, sneaky feeling, while strode suggests a positive, confident feeling).

We learned that choosing words based on their connotation is essential for controlling the tone of our writing. By changing weak words like "said" or "old" to powerful words like "shrieked" or "decrepit," we can make the reader feel exactly what we intend.

Key Takeaways

- **Every Word Carries a Feeling:** Don't settle for the first word that comes to mind. Think about the positive, negative, or neutral connotation of a synonym before you use it.
- **Active Verbs & Precise Nouns:** To create a specific tone, target the most important words. Replace weak verbs (like said, walked, closed) and weak nouns (like person, thing) with strong, active choices.
- **NYS ELA Connection:** Using nuance in word choice makes your writing more precise and engaging, which is a core skill for writing clear, professional, and descriptive texts.

Homework:

Your assignment is to practice using the power of connotation to change the feeling of a sentence completely. Rewrite the following sentences below TWICE: once to create a Positive Tone and once to create a Negative Tone.

- Nouns (e.g., changing "person" to "hero" or "villain").
- Verbs (e.g., changing "walked" to "strode" or "slunk").
- Adjectives and Adverbs (e.g., changing "old" to "venerable" or "dilapidated").

Example: The building was old. | **Positive:** The historic mansion stood proudly. | **Negative:** The crumbling ruin sagged miserably.

Homework Sentences:

The person walked down the street.
The music played softly.
The man looked at the paper.
The weather was nice.

The animal made a noise.
She wore a coat.
The food smelled good.
He sat in the chair.



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