

3055 BA SANGAM COLLEGE

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# LESSON NOTES

School: Ba Sangam College		Year/Level: 13	Name:
Subject: English		Worksheet 12	Year:
Strand	Reading and Viewing		
Sub Strand	Language Features and Rules		
Content	Apply knowledge of language features and structure and how they shape		
Learning	meanings in a va	riety of texts.	
Outcome			

## **DENOTATION AND CONNOTATION**

## Denotation is another word for the literal, dictionary definition of a word. Connotation is

### the associated meaning of the word beyond the literal definition. It carries the cultural and

### emotional associations of a word.

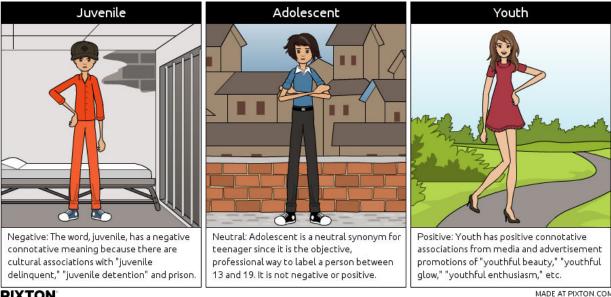
- 1. Connotation 1 (emotional charge): *Every* word has a negative, positive or neutral **connotation** or association. In this case, understanding connotation enhances understanding of the implied meaning, tone and purpose beyond a word's literal definition.
  - "Youth" = positive connotation (or association); "Juvenile" = negative connotation; "Adolescent" = neutral connotation.
  - "Request" or "Remind" = positive connotation; "Whine" or "Nag" = negative connotation; "Ask" = neutral connotation.
  - "Assertive" = positive; "Bossy" = negative; "Dominant" = neutral.
  - "Senior" = positive; "Old" = negative; "Elderly" = neutral.
- 2. Connotation 2 (symbolic meaning): *Some* words have a secondary, figurative or symbolic association or **connotation**. In this case, the word takes on a completely new meaning completely unrelated to the literal meaning of the word:
  - Snake: An evil, devious or immoral person.
  - Chicken: A coward.
  - Pig: A vulgar person or slob.
  - Sweet: Cool, awesome or fun.
  - Stepping stone: Used to mean small advancements or achievement en route to achieving a goal.
- 3. Denotation: The literal, dictionary definition of a word.

#### **Emotional Connotation**

Every word has a negative, positive or neutral connotation or emotional association. In this case, understanding connotation enhances understanding of the implied meaning, tone, and purpose beyond a word's literal definition.

- Positive Connotation: Youthful, Assertive, Senior, Remind
- Neutral Connotation: Adolescent, Dominant, Elderly, Ask
- Negative Connotation: Juvenile, Bossy, Old, Whine





#### **PIXTON** EXERCISE 15 MARKS

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by Lauren Martin / M.Ed.

- *a)* Underline the word that has a positive connotation.
- 1. Our trip to the park was (fine, wonderful).
- 2. (Brave, Foolhardy) people rode on the roller coaster.
- 3. We saw a (fascinating, weird) animal in the animal house.
- 4. Some of the monkeys made (hilarious, amusing) faces.
- 5. Everyone had a (smile, smirk) on his or her face on the way home.
- b) Underline the word that has a negative connotation.
- 1. We bought (cheap, inexpensive) furniture.
- 2. I ate a (soggy, moist) sandwich.
- 3. Mike (reminded, nagged) us to go the farm.
- 4. I didn't like the (smirk, grin) on the clown's face.
- 5. It made me feel (uneasy, frightened).
- c) Answer the following questions.
- 1. Which is worth more, something old or something antique?
- 2. Is it better to be slender or skinny?
- 3. Which would you rather be called, cheap or thrifty? \_\_\_\_\_\_

- 4. Is it more polite to sip or gulp a drink? \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. If you haven't eaten for days, would you be hungry or starving?