

Poetry!

{ English 11

⌘ Poetry is language that drives into the heart
instead of the head.

Lesson 1

⌘ A poet is somebody who feels, and who expresses his feelings through words. This may sound easy. It isn't.

A lot of people think or believe or know they feel – but that's thinking or believing or knowing; not feeling, and poetry is feeling – not knowing or believing or thinking.

Almost anybody can learn to think or believe or know, but not a single human being can be taught to feel. Why? Because whenever you think or you believe or you know you're a lot of other people; but the moment you feel, you're NOBODY-BUT-YOURSELF.

“What is a Poet” – EE Cummings

⌘ See handout

Poetry Response Journal – 20%

🔗 See Handout

Poetry Terms

de·no·ta·tion

/ˌdɛnəˈtɑːʃən/ ⓘ

noun

the literal or primary meaning of a word, in contrast to the feelings or ideas that the word suggests.
"beyond their immediate denotation, the words have a connotative power"

- the action or process of indicating or referring to something by means of a word, symbol, etc.
- PHILOSOPHY
the object or concept to which a term refers, or the set of objects of which a predicate is true.

Denotation

con·no·ta·tion

/kənəˈtʃ(ə)n/ ⓘ

noun

an idea or feeling that a word invokes in addition to its literal or primary meaning.

"the word "discipline" has unhappy connotations of punishment and repression"

synonyms: overtone, undertone, undercurrent, implication, hidden meaning, nuance, hint, echo, vibrations, association, intimation, suggestion, suspicion, insinuation

"there was a connotation of distrust in his voice"

- PHILOSOPHY

the abstract meaning or intension of a term, which forms a principle determining which objects or concepts it applies to.

Connotation

⌘ "Hollywood"

⌘ Denotes a place, an area of Los Angeles, worldwide known as the centre of the American movie industry.

⌘ Connotes such things as glitz, glamour, celebrities, and dreams of stardom

Examples

⌘ Over time words that denote approximately the same thing may acquire additional meanings, connotations, that are either positive or negative. Ex. Gay, minority, feminist, motherhood, family

Changes in connotation and denotation

And on a day we meet to walk the line
And set the wall between us once again.
We keep the wall between us as we go.

Mending Wall by Robert Frost

↳ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDTZziX4vTQ>

↳ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_oLzX0RPquk

Pumped up Kicks – Foster the people

↳ Gun violence

What is the song about?

- ⌘ Denotation – school shootings
- ⌘ Connotation – isolation, lack of family support and mental illness

Gun Violence

- ⌘ “I kind of wrote the song to bring awareness to the issue. That sort of thing keeps happening more and more in our country; it’s kind of turning into an epidemic. To me the epidemic isn’t gun violence; the epidemic is lack of family, lack of love, and isolation – kids who don’t have anywhere to go or anyone to talk to and that’s what makes them snap.”
- ⌘ Mark Foster “wrote the song about the growing trend of mental illness among teenagers in a bid to create a conversation about the need for change.”

What do the artists say about the song?

im·age·ry

/ˈɪmɪj(ə)rē/ ⓘ

noun

visually descriptive or figurative language, especially in a literary work.
"Tennyson uses imagery to create a lyrical emotion"

- **visual images collectively.**
"the impact of computer-generated imagery on contemporary art"
- **visual symbolism.**
"the film's religious imagery"

Imagery

↳ Elements that spark the senses (any of the 5 senses)

Imagery

The winter evening settles down
 With smell of steaks and passageways
 Six o'clock.
 The burnt-out ends of smoky days.
 And now a gusty shower wraps
 The grimy scraps
 Of withered leaves about your feet
 And newspapers from vacant lots;
 The showers beat
 On broken blinds and chimney-pots,
 And at the corner of the street
 A lonely cab-horse steams and stamps.
 And then the lighting of the lamps.

T.S. Eliot – Preludes (excerpt)

We're all chemicals, vitamins and minerals
 Vicodin with inner tubes, wrapped around the arm
 To see the vein like a chicken on the barn
 Top Cat chat, let's begin another yarn
 That's flying saucer cheese, or is it chicken parm?
 But roosters don't fly like boosters don't buy
 So what powers cowards to get them to the top
 Just to fall asleep listening to Bach?
 The ribbon in the sky is the riddim that I drop
 Dribbling the eye across the prism of a clock
 That lacks meaning, but racks up stacks of fat reading
 They catch Chief and wrapped up plants from trap dealings
 Now what's a coffin with a scratched ceiling?

Lupe Fiasco – Mural (excerpt)

- ⌘ Write a short poem that includes an example of denotation, connotation and imagery. Be prepared to share
- ⌘ You can write the connotation in brackets underneath your poem

Assignment