

The Best Word for the Job

A Christmas Carol

The *denotative* meaning of a word is the dictionary definition of a word. Many words have more than one meaning.

1. Give two denotative meanings of the word “rich” and use each in a sentence.

Words also have a *connotative* meaning. The connotation of a word refers to the feelings and associations created by the word. Words can have positive, negative, or neutral connotations.

Example: Positive: slender Neutral: thin Negative: skeletal

2. Fill in words below that have the same denotative meaning as the word “old” but that can be identified as

Positive _____

Neutral _____

Negative _____

3. Look at the following words, all of which have the same denotative meaning as “house”:

Home hut shack mansion cabin chalet
Abode dwelling shanty domicile residence

Decide if each word has a positive, negative, or neutral connotation and fill in the chart below. Be prepared to defend your answer.

Positive	Neutral	Negative

4. Make a list of words that have the same denotative meaning as the word "cheerful."

5. Place the words listed above in order from most cheerful to least cheerful.

An idiom is a word or phrase peculiar to a particular language and different from the denotative meaning of the words.

Example: "Burning the mid-night oil" means staying up late at night

6. Match the idiom with the word or phrase that best defines it. Some words may be used more than once.

a. Dead

d. lonely

b. Heartless

e. quick

c. cheap

f. melancholy

_____ Tight fisted

_____ solitary as an oyster

_____ dead as a door nail

_____ in a twinkling

_____ not caring a button

_____ had no bowels

Writing Activities

1. Choose a word from the dictionary that has at least FOUR different meanings. Write a paragraph in which you use the word four times, each time with a different meaning. Highlight the word each time you use it.

2. Write a paragraph using an idiom from A Christmas Carol. For Pre-AP, use three idioms.