

Connotation and Denotation: how Word Choice Affects a Paragraph – Grade Eight

Connotation and Denotation Exercise

Directions: Change the following underlined words to words that have the same *denotation*, but a different *connotation* to create a different mood in the paragraph. Make sure your new mood stays consistent throughout the paragraph. You may need to change other words to fit the context of the new mood. Rewrite the paragraph below.

Identify the mood you are trying to create: _____

Emily entered the empty room. As she glanced at the curtains, their red color held her eye for a moment. At first, she failed to notice the chair between the two windows, but as she looked down, she was surprised to find a coin in the center of the plush cushion. The silver shined from the dark blue velvet. Before she picked it up, she looked around in hesitation. Was somebody watching? She wasn't sure. So, it should not have been a surprise to her when, as she reached for the coin, she heard a loud thud behind her.