

Lesson Plan #7 – “Connotation/Denotation”

Goal: The goal for this lesson is to begin to inculcate in students an awareness of multiple meanings/uses for a single word – to demonstrate how to grasp one of the complexities of language mastery.

Objectives: For this lesson students will:

- Learn how to use a dictionary
- Uncover multiple meanings and uses for a single word
- Begin practicing or playing with the different meanings of the word in sentences

Lesson Procedure:

For this assignment students will need their Meta-threads shirts plus a dictionary. Students should work in groups of three or four. Each student will first practice and write their Meta-threads word and definition and sample sentence. Then they are to compose five original sentences that use their word. The students are to do the same for each member of the group. Next, the task will be to engage the students in a conversation about “hidden meanings” of words. Sometimes words mean more than just what the dictionary says. Look up the various Meta-threads words in the dictionary. Can you think of any other ways of using your word? Are there additional meanings that are implied by the word? Words frequently connote meanings that are slightly different than what the dictionary says. Does this apply to any of the Meta-threads words in your class?

This lesson is challenging and it is intended for more advanced grades. The objective is to inspire students to think more deeply and more critically about the meanings of words. Sometimes a word is a metaphor or a synecdoche. Sometimes a word has a cache of cultural meanings because of over-use in popular discourse. This exercise is designed to expose students to the protean nature of language.