

### Category 1 – Understanding and Analysis Across Genres

#### TECHNICAL AND FOREIGN WORDS

**etymology:** origin (history) of a word; meaning of a technical or academic word can often be determined from Latin, Greek, or other linguistic roots

**Examples:** *bio* (life) + *ology* (study of) → biology (study of living things)  
*penta* (five) + *gon* (angle) → pentagon (figure with five angles)

**affix:** word part placed before (prefix) or after (suffix) a base word; changes word's meaning in a predictable way  
**Example:** Prefix *un-* means *not* or *opposite*; *unemployed* means *not employed* or *jobless*.

Certain **foreign words or phrases** are also commonly used in English, like French phrase *tete-a-tete* (head to head) means *private conversation*.

#### DETERMINING DENOTATION, CONNOTATION, AND ETYMOLOGY

**dictionary entry:** shows spelling, pronunciation, part of speech, etymology, and meaning(s), including denotation(s) and connotation(s)

**denotation:** word's direct or literal meaning; dictionary usually lists first

**connotation:** word's implied meaning or association

**Example:** dictionary entry  
**dove** (dʊv) n [Old English *dōfe*] 1. bird of family Columbidae that is usually smaller than a pigeon, 2. tender or peaceful person

Use **context clues** (nearby words or sentences that provide hints about a word's meaning) to determine the meaning of a word

- words like *because*, *such as*, *also*, *like*, *unlike*, and *however* show relationships (like cause and effect, example, comparison, contrast)
- **synonyms** are words that have the same or similar meanings
- **antonyms** are words that have opposite meanings

**Example:** Angie is a real dove, unlike her quarrelsome brother.  
**analysis of *dove*:** Angie is not a bird, so the connotation of *dove* is being used which means *tender or peaceful person*

**analysis of *quarrelsome*:** It is an adjective describing a person who is *unlike* Angie, so it must mean *not tender or peaceful*

- sentence structure can help determine the meaning of a word

Additional references include a **thesaurus** (lists synonyms and antonyms)  
**Example:** thesaurus entry **quarrelsome:** belligerent, contentious

#### IMPACT OF GENRE AND VIEWPOINT

**genre:** type of text; used to group texts that share similar characteristics

- **literary genres:** fiction, literary nonfiction
- **informational genres:** expository, persuasive, technical

**theme:** text's underlying message or main idea; implied or stated thoughts, actions, or images; to fully understand the meaning of a text, it should be analyzed with reference to other texts that share the same theme (of any genre)

**viewpoint:** author's attitude regarding a topic; in fiction, it is the narrator's perspective; in nonfiction, it is the author's perspective; to compare viewpoints, look for textual evidence that supports each author's perspective

**Example:** In "The Great Gatsby," Jay Gatsby's perspective is that of a wealthy man who has lost his love. In "The Great Gatsby," Jay Gatsby's perspective is that of a wealthy man who has lost his love.

#### INFERENCES AND TEXT EVIDENCE

**inference:** reader's opinion or conclusion that is not directly stated in the text(s), such as a symbol, a character's motivation; to infer, a reader uses the text and his/her own experience; use **textual evidence** (clues, details, examples, or facts from text) to support all inferences

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### Category 2 – Literary Texts

#### MYTHIC AND CULTURAL INFLUENCE

Many 20th-century literary texts are influenced by **mythic** (used to address a cultural or universal question) or **classical** (is or has the qualities of ancient Greek or Roman) or **traditional** (considered to be important literature or a national heritage)

- **mythic:** used to address a cultural or universal question (the origin of man; often includes a hero, god, or supernatural being)
- **classical:** is or has the qualities of ancient Greek or Roman
- **traditional:** considered to be important literature or a national heritage

#### FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE AND SETTING

**figurative language:** expression that describes an ordinary object or situation in a different, non-literal way; varies by historical and cultural context

**Example:** A young American in 1924 describes a jazz band as the *bee's knees*. That phrase would not be used in a contemporary setting.

#### DICTION AND IMAGERY IN POETRY

**poetry:** literary form that often uses **imagery** (expressions that appeal to a person's senses), and **figurative language** (word choice) techniques, like **rhyming**, to convey ideas or emotions; usually divided into lines of verse

**controlling image:** image that dominates a text  
**Example:** repeated image of a soldier in a poem about death

**Technique** **Description** **Example**  
understatement speaker says less than what is true; *Winning the lottery was a nice way to start the day*

overstatement exaggeration; speaker says more than what is true; *It was a disaster against the waste*

irony contrast between what is said and what is expected; *My kitten is a soldier, though for peace.*

paradox appears contradictory, but actually contains truth; *After Jackson tripped, she said "Nice move!"*

simile comparison using "like" or "as"; *Angie's smile glowed like the sun.*

personification giving a human trait to an object or animal; *The ocean's angry waves pounded the tiny boat.*

alliteration repetition of initial sound; *He held the heavy horse.*

onomatopoeia words imitate the sound; *The train whizzed by her.*

**DRAMATIC CONVENTIONS**  
**soliloquy:** literary form intended to be performed, like a play or an opera; dramatic conventions to develop and improve the text

**monologue:** character's long speech to self or to others

**soliloquy:** character's long speech to express inner thoughts or thoughts; typically done alone on stage

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