

INTRODUCTION TO DICTION

WHAT IS DICTION?

- ✘ Diction refers to the word choice and the figurative language an author may use in his writing.
- ✘ Diction is important because the words chosen often help establish a certain mood or tone for the work. It is chosen deliberately by a writer to create a specific effect.

VOCBULARY FOR DICTION

- ✘ Figurative language is used to describe something by comparing it to something else. Figurative language includes metaphors, similes and personification.

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE REVIEW

- ✗ A **metaphor** makes a comparison without the use of like or as.
 - + *She was drowning in a sea of grief.*
- ✗ A **simile** creates a comparison using like or as.
 - + *She was as sad as an abandoned puppy.*
- ✗ **Personification** occurs when an inanimate object is given life-like characteristics.
 - + *The desk screamed in agony when the 500 pound sumo wrestler sat down.*

VOCABULARY FOR DICTION

- ✘ All words have a **denotative meaning**. The denotative meaning of a word is the literal dictionary definition.
- ✘ Consider this word: **punishment**
What is its denotative meaning?

VOCABULARY FOR DICTION

- ✘ Words also have a **connotative meaning**.
The connotative meaning is the emotions that could be associated with the word.
- ✘ The connotative meaning may vary from person to person based on one's experiences.
- ✘ Consider **punishment** again. What is its connotative meaning?

PRACTICE

- ✘ Record this in your notes!
- ✘ For each words in the list below, identify the denotative and connotative meaning of the word.
 1. snake
 2. party

CHAPTER 2 OF NIGHT

- ✘ Now let's read chapter 2 of Elie Wiesel's Night. As you read, pay attention to any examples of figurative language used, as well as his specific word choices, and consider how the language selected works to enhance the mood of the chapter.

VOCABULARY FOR DICTION

- ✘ Words may have a **euphonious** sound. These words will sound soothing to the hear, or will flow off the tongue. Many words with long vowel sounds are considered to be euphonious.
- ✘ Examples: steamboat, melody, peace

VOCABULARY FOR DICTION

- ✘ Other words may be referred to as having a **cacophonous** sound. Cacophonous words often include strong, harsh consonant sounds such as c, k, r, and t.
- ✘ Examples would include crack, crunch, and kick.

PRACTICE

- ✘ Record this in your notes!
- ✘ For each word below, identify whether it is euphony or cacophony. Provide a rationale for your choice.
 1. shoreline
 2. comic book