

ELA Virtual Learning

A.P. English Lit. and Comp.

April 27, 2020



Lesson: **April 27, 2020**

Objective/Learning Target:

Students will be able to analyze subtlety in language to assess characterization and tone in a literary text.

Success Starter

Directions:

How do you define success in your personal life?

On a sheet of paper, brainstorm a list of personality characteristics and accomplishments you would like to be remembered for in the future.

Subtlety of Language

When reading prose or poetry, many times readers are so focused on finding examples of literary elements and what is there- we forget- sometimes what is not so obvious- or what is NOT said. This can be just as important or revealing as those literary elements easily found.

Pay particular attention to:

- *names and titles
- *nouns (plural? singular? pronouns?)
- *setting details (weather, time of day, indoor/outside...)
- *adjectives and adverbs

Practice

Go to the following poem and annotate- pay particular attention to those starred items from the Subtlety of Language slide when annotating the poem.

Link: [The Unknown Citizen](#)

Practice

After reading *The Unknown Citizen*, decode and write a thesis statement responding to the following prompt:

Prompt: In a brief essay, identify at least two of the implications implicit in the society reflected in the poem. Support your statements by specific references to the poem.

After writing your thesis statement, make a list of at least 4 specific claims with references from the text that you could use to support your thesis statement.

The Unknown Citizen: Example Answer

In *The Unknown Citizen* by W. H. Auden, the society represented reveres conformity and submission over individuality and innovation.

- **The Citizen is Unknown- he was a model citizen**
 - He has a marble statue erected in his honor.
- **Yet he is not important enough to have a name**
 - “Unknown Citizen” only referred to with male or numerical and letter references
- **He did not rock the boat politically, or socially**
 - “Yet he wasn't a scab or odd in his views”
- **He met his societal expectations and nothing more**
 - That he held the proper opinions for the time of year;
When there was peace, he was for peace: when there was war, he went.

Subtlety of Language Revisited

In *The Unknown Citizen*, a lot was being said with the type of information given- as well as a lack of what was being said. When you are searching for subtlety- remember it is helpful to think of it as looking for something that is not there- or barely there.

Finding subtlety requires close reading- and the grit to reread when you don't understand- or when you know you are missing something, but you can't figure out exactly what it is.

If you can't find what *is* there- try asking- what's *not* there?

More Practice

Directions: Read the following excerpt paying close attention to the items referred to on the subtlety of language slide. Answer the following questions on a sheet of paper or in a Google Document that you create. Support your answers with examples from the text.

Pride and Prejudice Excerpt

1. Who is Collins, and what are his intentions?
2. Who is Elizabeth, and what is her response to these intentions?
3. What are some tone words you would use to describe Collins' attitude toward Elizabeth?
4. What are some tone words you would use to describe Elizabeth's attitude toward Collins?

More Practice: Example Answers

1. Who is Collins, and what are his intentions?

He is her cousin- and he is proposing to Elizabeth.

- “Almost as soon as I entered the house I singled you out as the companion of my future life.”

2. Who is Elizabeth, and what is her response to these intentions?

She is his cousin, and she almost laughs at him but does not because he keeps talking.

- “... being run away with by his feelings, made Elizabeth so near laughing that she could not use the short pause he allowed in any attempt to stop him farther, and he continued...”

3. What are some tone words you would use to describe Collins' attitude toward Elizabeth?

- Formal, artificial, forced- “...perhaps it will be advisable for me to state my reasons for marrying...”

4. What are some tone words you would use to describe Elizabeth's attitude toward Collins?

- Disinterested, horrified, skeptical- “...Collins, with all his solemn composure, being run away with by his feelings, made Elizabeth so near laughing...”

Additional Resources

[Tone Word Vocabulary Sheet](#)

[Tone Word Wheel](#)