

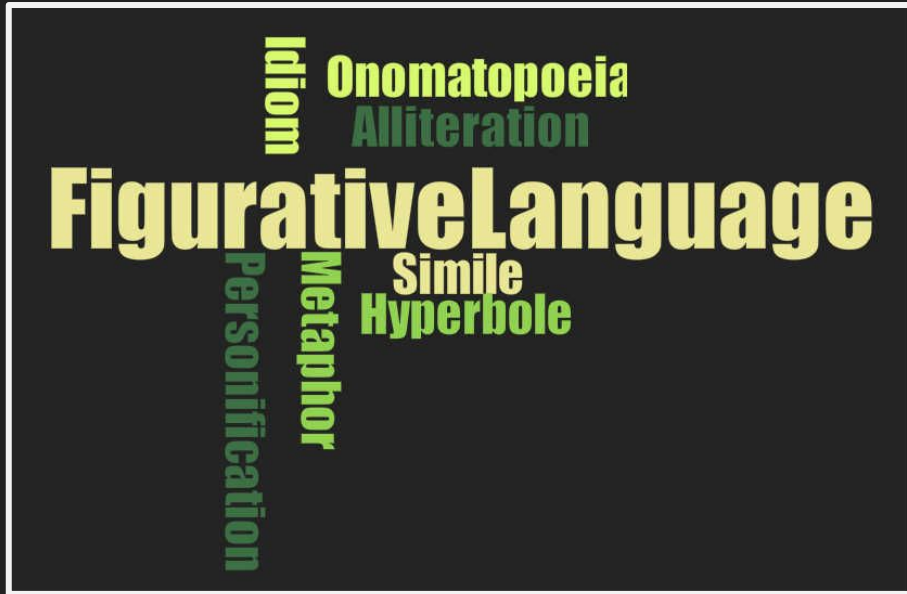
English III

Lesson: Monday, April 7th

Learning Targets:

- Determine the meaning of words and phrases including figurative and connotative meaning.
- Use context clues to determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text.

Bell Ringer:



Use the following resource to refresh your understanding of different types of figurative language:

[Figurative Language Document](#)

After reviewing the document, pick two types of figurative language and write your own examples for each. To make it more interesting, you can base your examples on your favorite media (TV show, movie, game, book, etc.).

Learn:

1. Read the following resource that explains what connotation is and provides useful examples: [MASTERCLASS Resource](#)
2. Now, read [*The Joy of Reading and Writing: Superman and Me*](#) by Sherman Alexie. As you read, pay attention to the language Alexie uses and the connotations of the phrases he uses, especially when he is describing Native American children.

Practice:

Pick one of the following excerpts from the article and write about the message that is implied by the author. Make sure to use references from the text to support your response.

1. “If he’d been anything but an Indian boy living on the reservation, he might have been called a prodigy. But he is an Indian boy living on the reservation and is simply an oddity.”
2. “A smart Indian is a dangerous person, widely feared and ridiculed by Indians and non-Indians alike.”

Practice Answer Key:

(Answers will vary)

Check your answer to make sure it meets the following criteria:

- The response is written in complete sentences free of major spelling and grammatical errors.
- The response uses textual evidence to support your claims.

See an example of a proficient answer on the next slide.

Sample Proficient Answer:

Response to Option 1:

When Alexie says, “If he’d been anything but an Indian boy living on the reservation, he might have been called a prodigy. But he is an Indian boy living on the reservation and is simply an oddity,” he implies that Indians are not expected to be intelligent. This expectation is reinforced by both outsiders and other Indians. He directly clarifies this implication when he writes, “Those who failed were ceremonially accepted by other Indians and appropriately pitied by non-Indians.” The ceremonial acceptance by Indians and the appropriate pity from non-Indians both imply that failure is the expected norm for Indian children.

Reflection:

Reflect on the questions below and write a response in your notes.

- What are some expectations that society has about you?
- Do you accept or reject these expectations?
- What can you do to push back against the expectations that you want to reject?

Additional Resources:



Sherman Joseph Alexie Jr. is a Spokane–Coeur d'Alene–American novelist, short story writer, poet, and filmmaker. His writings draw on his experiences as an Indigenous American with ancestry from several tribes. He grew up on the Spokane Indian Reservation and now lives in Seattle, Washington. – via Wikipedia

[Click here to read other works by him.](#)