

English II

Lesson: April 7, 2020

Learning Target(s):

- I can determine the meaning of certain words and phrases as they are used in *The Lottery* by Shirley Jackson.
- I can recognize connotative and figurative meanings of words used in the text.

Bell Ringer:



Quick Write:

In one or two sentences....

What words do you think of when you hear the word “lottery”?

What kinds of things are associated with winning the lottery?

When you think of a lottery, what do you expect to take place?

Learn:

- Connotation means: an idea or feeling that a word invokes in addition to its literal or primary meaning.
- A certain word or phrase might make us think happy and positive thoughts, or might make us think sad or negative thoughts.
- Example: The word **sunlight** is often associated with happiness, so when an author uses the word **sunlight**, it is meant to invoke the feeling of happiness within a story.

Practice:

- As you read [*The Lottery*](#) by Shirley Jackson, take notes about what the connotative meaning of the word “lottery” is.

→ Using two details from the text, answer the following prompt:

The author of this story creates a positive connotation for the word “lottery” at the beginning of the story, but by the end of the story, the word has a completely different connotation. Why would the author make this shift?

Practice Answer Key:

(Answers will Vary)

- Check your answer to make sure it meets the following criteria:
 - Did you write in complete sentences?
 - Did you use standard conventions (spelling, punctuation, grammar)?
 - Did you answer the question?
 - Did you support and explain your answer using 2 details from the text?

Sample Proficient Answer:

Shirley Jackson creates a positive connotation of the word “lottery” at the beginning of the story and shifts it to a negative connotation by the end so that the ending is more shocking to the reader. At the beginning of the story, the author writes, “The morning of June 27th was clear and sunny, with the fresh warmth of a full summer day” (Jackson, 1). This sentence uses words like “sunny” and “warm” associated with the lottery so that the reader thinks this will be a positive event. But by the end of the story the author uses words “her school friends breathed heavily as she went forward switching her skirt” (Jackson, 7). The words “breathed heavily” are associated with anxiety and worry, which creates a negative connotation for the lottery. By the end, the reader is not expecting the lottery to be negative, so the ending where they kill Tessie is even more shocking for the reader because they were not expecting it.