



ELA Virtual Learning

English II

May 18, 2020



English II
Lesson: May 18, 2020

Objective/Learning Target:

- I can analyze the impact of word choice and syntax on meaning, tone, and the overall writing style of the author.

BELL RINGER

Hey, man! What's up?

Hello, hun! Miss you!

Yo! What you up to?

Word choice can play a big role in an author's overall writing style.

Imagine you received three text messages from friends and/or family members who just got new phones and numbers. Answer the question below.

- **What words and phrases do your friends and family tend to use?**
- **Are there any unique slang terms or any familiar phrases?**

MINI PROJECT OVERVIEW

Literary forensics is the scientific study of language in order to identify the author of an anonymous/disputed piece of writing. Literary forensics has been applied to settle plagiarism disputes as well as solve brutal crimes!



For this brief mini-project, students will take on the role of literary detective and our assigned the task determining the authorship of five anonymous poems.

In order to determine authorship, literary detectives focus on three main criteria: diction and syntax, themes, and mechanics. Today we will focus on **diction**.

KEY TERMS

Congratulations! If you completed the bell work, you've helped demonstrate the importance of **diction in writing style**.

Diction is a fancy term for the words and phrases a writer chooses to use in a speech or piece of writing.

Writing style is a series of techniques and choices a writer tends to make in their writing to form a particular "voice" unique to them.





LEARN

How does diction impact writing style and authorship?

We write what we've read. It's difficult, even consciously, to deviate from our tendencies in word choice.

So, some writers are *incarcerated* by their *lexicon*. While other writers are *imprisoned* by their *vocabulary*.



PRACTICE

Now that we have reviewed word choice and its impact on style, let's practice by looking at five anonymous poems.

Use the information from slides 4-6 to determine whether these five poems are authored by **one, two, or three different writers** based on diction or word choice. The five poems are linked [here](#).

As you read and evaluate the texts, fill out the chart to the right. Include at least five words from each poem that feel unique to that author's style.

Text #	Diction (Word Choice)
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	



PRACTICE ANSWER KEY *(Answers will vary)*

Text #	Diction (Word Choice)
1	carry, moon, root, heart, sky, tree, grows
2	heart, pain, nerves, freezing, chill, ceremonious, tomb, mechanical, wooden, quartz, lead
3	heart, eyes, sky, meadow, mountains, morning, stars, forests, split, strike
4	civilization, wish, whish, whisk, flint, spark, smoke, smoulder, burn, chimney
5	eyes, petal, roses, spring, fragility, frail, perceive



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Literary Forensics

- [Forensic Linguistic Profiling & What Your Language Reveals About You | Harry Bradford | TEDxStoke](#)



REFLECTION

Today's learning targets are listed below:

- 1. I can analyze the impact of word choice on meaning, tone, and the overall writing style of the author.**

On a scale of 1-5, how confident do you feel with each of today's learning targets?
What did you struggle on? What did you understand the best?

1 = I still need to work on it
5 = I know I've mastered it!