



ELA Virtual Learning

Middle School

Essential Literacy

April 15, 2020



Lesson: April 15, 2020

Objective/Learning Target:

Students will expand on their learning from last week on interpreting word meaning

Warm Up:

Leaving a blank space from yesterday's work on your work log paper, write today's date (4-15-20).

Read a minimum of 5 pages or a whole chapter from your book. Using what we learned last week about figuring out the meaning of unfamiliar words, write three words from your book that you don't know the meaning of yet.

Write the sentence before, the sentence with, and the sentence right after to draw your conclusion or best guess about what the author most likely meant the definition of the word to be.

Remember to look for the following: an example of what the word could mean, a synonym (same meaning), an antonym (opposite meaning), or the actual definition of the word.

Learn:

Let's think a bit more about how and why an author might use a specific word in their writing. When we reflect on **synonyms (or words that have the same meaning)**, sometimes the meanings aren't exactly the same. Some words have certain **connotations (or strengths)** depending on how the author wants the reader to understand what they are trying to express to make their point. For example, the words **club, group, and gang all mean a number of people gathered together**. But, clubs are often a positive (good) word, groups are neutral (neither good or bad), and gangs can be considered negative (bad) depending on how you frame your sentence.

amusing	funny	hilarious
gloomy	sad	depressed
pleasant	grand	spectacular
think	believe	know
hop	jump	leap
hard	difficult	impossible

Learn:

Here is an example of words shown in columns based on their connotations or strengths of meaning. The left column is the “weak” word, the middle column is the “neutral” or, in this example, the slightly stronger word, and the right column is the “strongest” word.

Practice:

Below is a worksheet and answer key for choosing the “strongest” word for a sentence given two choices:

[Strength of Meaning Worksheet and Answer Key](#)

Below is a worksheet and answer key for choosing the strongest or weakest words for each section of directions:

[Strong vs. Weak Worksheet and Answer Key](#)

Extra Practice:

Below is one more worksheet and answer key where you come up with three synonyms for the words given and put them in order from strongest to weakest.

[Strongest to Weakest Worksheet and Answer Key](#)

Can you practice this with more words than just the two on the worksheet?