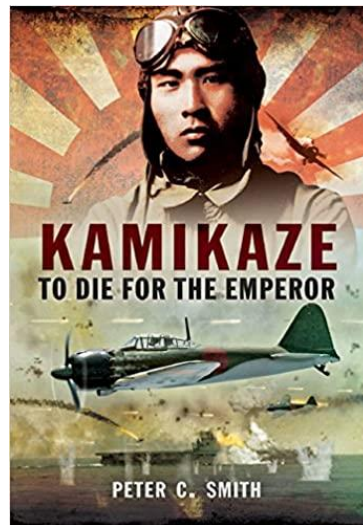


# Year 9 GCSE English Literature



Week beginning 22nd June 2020

# Learning Objective

To understand what connotations are and why they are useful.

To practise using inference skills to find meaning.



What is the first thing you think of when you look at this lemon?  
Private chat me your answers!

# Word Tennis

## Rules:

- The whole class will play, but you are not allowed to speak until I ask you.
- If you cannot think of an answer it does not matter!
- When the root word appears, say the first thing that you associate with it.
- We will go on for as long as people have new words to add, but no one is allowed to take more than 5 seconds to add to the word list.
- In the case of associations that don't make sense to the adults or players, Mrs Shaddock will mediate when you have justified your word. If a word is disallowed the chain ends.

nature

record

vintage

circle

country

pool

# What Lies Beneath?

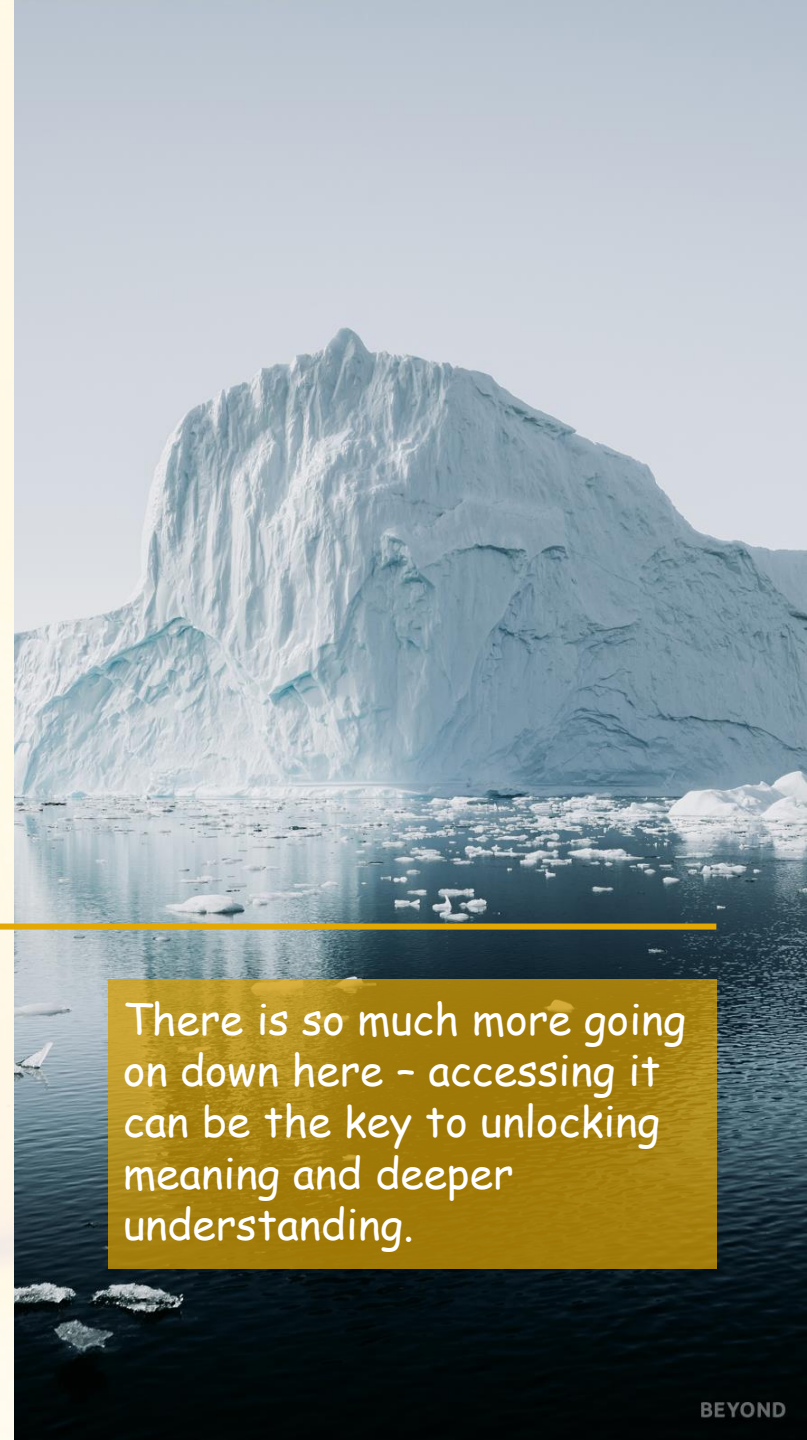
## Text

**Denotation** = the surface meaning; what you would find if you look a word up in the dictionary.

## Subtext

**Connotation** = thoughts and feelings that might be implied by a word.

Related words: suggestion, implication, hint, association, symbolism



There is so much more going on down here - accessing it can be the key to unlocking meaning and deeper understanding.

# Being able to read the sub-text is called Inference

The mind is a very clever thing. Every single day you are filling in gaps using both **evidence** and **lived experience**. For example...

You wake up and draw the curtains. Garden furniture is upturned, tree branches are broken and there is a fence panel missing. **What has happened?**

You are busy baking. The dog is resting by your feet. Ingredients get dropped. You go to get a cloth to clean them up but when you turn back round they are no longer there. The dog is now standing. **Where did the mess go?**

You are getting changed for outdoor PE. There are no windows in the changing rooms. You hear a steady pitter-patter on the roof above. It gets progressively louder. The PE teacher enters, looking frustrated. **What will they say?**

You don't need to be Sherlock Holmes to work things out and it doesn't require a big imaginative leap. However, you do have to take a small step of ingenuity based on the evidence before you. This is called **inference**; it is a key reading skill and a key skill for answer questions in English GCSE.

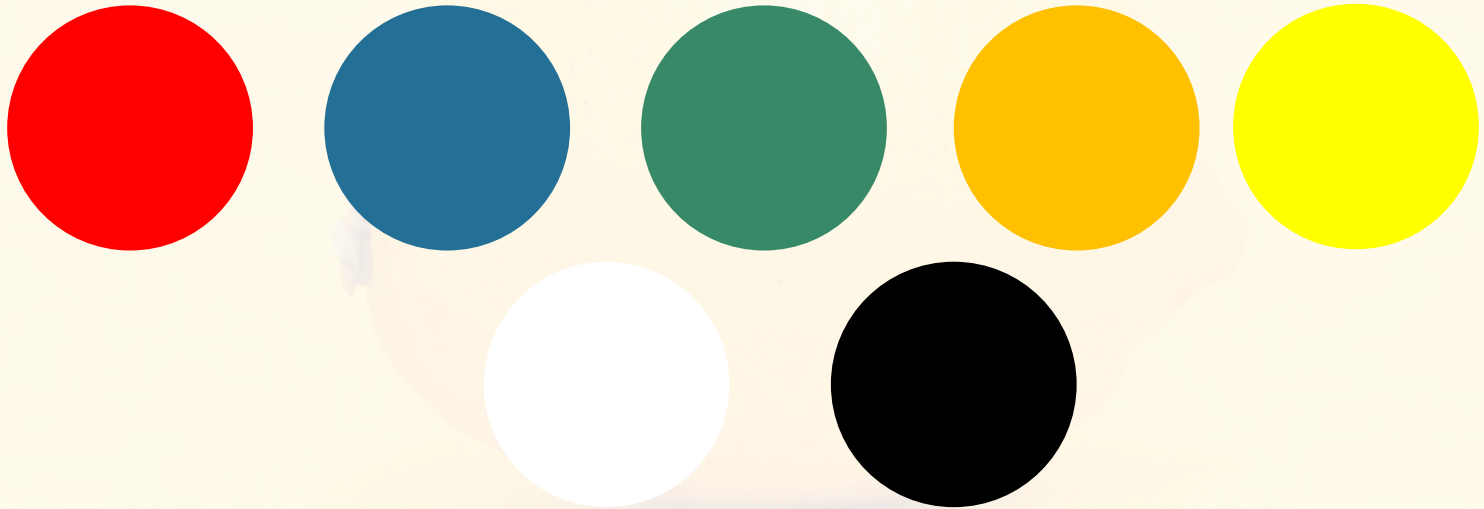
# Colour Inference

Synaesthesia is a neurological condition that results in the merging of senses. Somebody with synaesthesia might smell colours or see sounds.

Many people who have the condition claim that being able to experience things in a different way actually enriches their understanding of the world.

Everybody is mildly synaesthetic - we make sensory associations beyond the obvious. This is certainly true of colours.

**What mood(s) do you get from each of these colours?**



Colours are rich in connotations.



# Colour Connotation in Kamikaze by Beatrice Garland

Her father embarked at sunrise  
with a flask of water, a samurai sword  
in the cockpit, a shaven head  
full of powerful incantations  
and enough fuel for a one-way  
journey into history

but half way there, she thought,  
recounting it later to her children,  
he must have looked far down  
at the little fishing boats  
strung out like bunting  
on a green-blue translucent sea

and beneath them, arcing in swathes  
like a huge flag waved first one way  
then the other in a figure of eight,  
the dark shoals of fishes  
flashing silver as their bellies  
swivelled towards the sun

and remembered how he  
and his brothers waiting on the shore  
built cairns of pearl-grey pebbles  
to see whose withstood longest  
the turbulent inrush of breakers  
bringing their father's boat safe  
  
– *yes, grandfather's boat* – safe  
to the shore, salt-sodden, awash  
with cloud-marked mackerel,  
black crabs, feathery prawns,  
the loose silver of whitebait and once  
a tuna, the dark prince, muscular, dangerous.

*And though he came back  
my mother never spoke again  
in his presence, nor did she meet his eyes  
and the neighbours too, they treated him  
as though he no longer existed,  
only we children still chattered and laughed*

*till gradually we too learned  
to be silent, to live as though  
he had never returned, that this  
was no longer the father we loved.  
And sometimes, she said, he must have wondered  
which had been the better way to die.*

Colours are rich in connotations, but does this apply to the words too...?

French Poet Anatole France (1844-1924) wrote, in his work 'The Adventures of the Soul', about people who read books:



*'The subtle poison that penetrates their brain renders them insensible to the real world and makes them the prey of terrible or delightful phantoms.'*

How does this author feel about books?

What does he imply they do to our vulnerable minds?

Look at the denotation of some of the key words and phrases:

'insensible': numb, without mental capability, unaware of surroundings

'Subtle poison': Discreetly destroying, causing unknown irreversible damage.

What is this suggesting about literature - what is the connotation?



# Word Connotation in Kamikaze by Beatrice Garland

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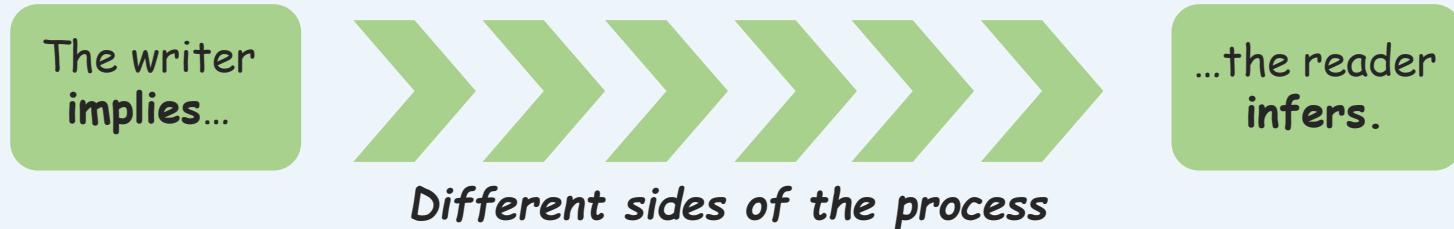
# Exam Style Question

How does Anatole France present the theme of literature in the book *Adventures of the Soul*?

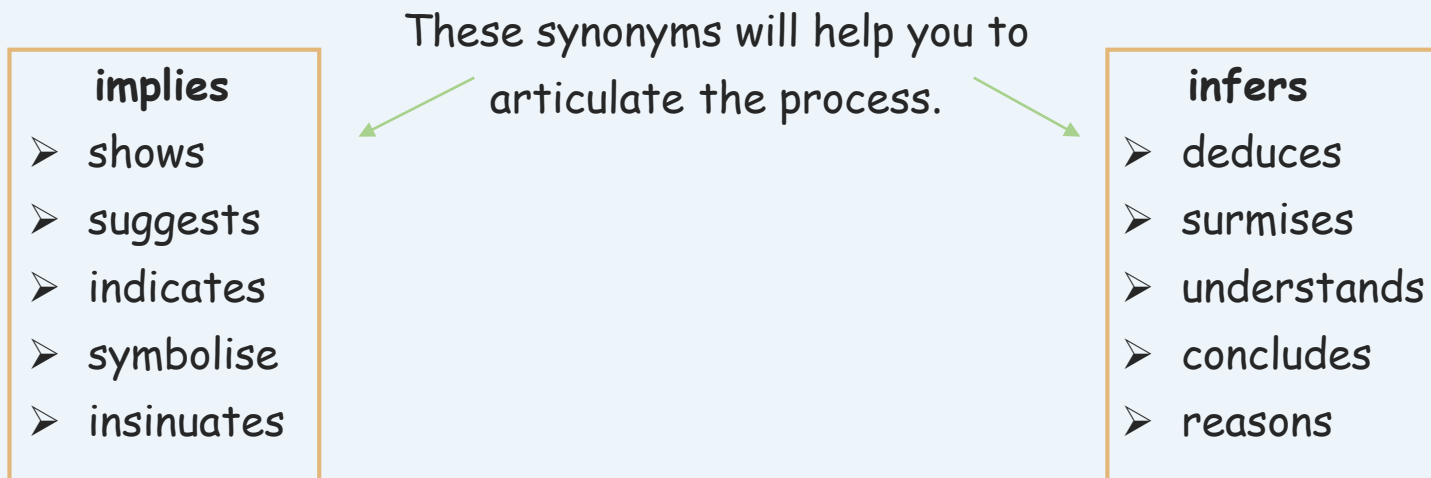
Model Answer:

This author has an extremely negative view of books as he explains that books are a form of 'subtle poison', this implies that books have the power to destroy our view of the real world. France suggests that books manipulate you into believing in fantasies and living in a world where we hide away from our problems. In using the word 'poison', the animal of a snake is evoked. Snakes represent pain, an animal which causes intolerable suffering upon their victim. Therefore the writer concludes that if we continue to indulge among literature, we are only setting ourselves up for despair as we cannot run from our problems all of the time, we are the victims of books 'subtle poison'. Moreover, 'insensible to the real world' suggests that as a reader you are allowing yourself to become weak, numb and vulnerable to the 'delightful phantoms' that should never replace the 'real word'.

# The Language of Inference



Being able to infer is a critical reading skill so you need to showcase your inferences when writing analytical essays.



# Sentence starters to help structure your writing

Point	And one of	Example/Evidence	And one of	Explanation
The author shows/highlights/outlines that...	+	An example of this is...	+	This quotation highlights...
The author uses... to highlight...	+	A quotation that demonstrates this is...	+	This illustrates...
Another instance in which the author...	+	We can see this when the author writes...	+	The example makes it obvious that...
In comparison to...	+	That idea is expressed in the following quotation:	+	Here the author displays...
This contrasts with...	+	When the author declares that: "...	+	By using these words, the writer...
The author reiterates this by...	+	When the narrator/speaker/character says...	+	This is a prime example of...
A typical example from the text is when...	+	... as the following lines confirm...	+	Here (insert author's name) shows us...
In comparison...	+	This is found in the author's use of...	+	The words here connote...
An additional occasion on which the author shows this is...	+	A phrase which expresses this idea is...	+	If we analyse these words, we can observe...
Finally...	+	... by the words...	+	This makes the reader feel...
A final occasion when...	+	This is evident when the author uses...	+	From this the reader can...
One last point to illustrate this is...	+	When the author declares...	+	Our perception of this is...

Remember to replace the word author with writer, poet or the author's name at points during your writing. This improves the readability of your work!

# Homework Task

- Answer this exam style question using all you have learnt in the last few weeks:

How does Beatrice Garland present the theme of memory in the poem Kamikaze?

- Hint: there are two people's memories (the narrator and her father) so you need to write 2 paragraphs. Structure your work in the way given in the modelled answer. Use the sentence starters and the language of inference to help you write. Remember to think about the connotation and denotation of words.
- Send your completed work to Mrs Shaddock

[maryon.shaddock@grangepark.kent.sch.uk](mailto:maryon.shaddock@grangepark.kent.sch.uk)

# End of Lesson

- Have a good week everyone. I will look forward to seeing your work and seeing all of you again next Wednesday.

Goodbye!