Words Shape Places

Read how near-synonyms reveal attitude and judgment.

10.L.V.3.c "Analyze the nuances in connotative meaning of words that share a similar denotation. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words or phrases that describe the station, its condition, or plans for its future. In the margin, number pairs of underlined words that describe a similar idea but create different feelings or judgments.

The Riverton Station

1. At dusk, Mara stopped beside the old Riverton train station, where weeds pushed through cracks in the platform. A developer had posted drawings for apartments, while the historical society planned a meeting inside the ticket hall. Mara's grandfather had once called the station "quiet," remembering its last years after passenger service ended. Her younger brother called it "dead" when he saw pigeons in the rafters and a broken clock above the doorway. Mara photographed the clock, the chipped tiles, and the faded route map near the entrance.

2. At the meeting, residents offered different plans. Ms. Ibarra wanted to preserve the waiting room, keeping its wooden benches and brass lamps. Mr. Chen proposed restoring the room after repairing the roof and cleaning the smoke-darkened walls. Across the aisle, a contractor described a renovation with glass doors, bright paint, and a café. No one questioned the station's age or the leaks in its ceiling. Yet each speaker pictured a different future when they pointed toward the same room. Mara noticed that their voices changed when they named the building.

3. After the meeting, Mara and her brother walked along the platform as rain began. Near the tracks, they found a suitcase tag stamped with a date from 1948. Her brother said the station looked dilapidated in the rain. Mara thought it looked weathered, especially where generations of hands had rubbed the stair rail smooth. When a gust blew water through a shattered window, she did not deny the damage. Still, she tucked the tag into her notebook and imagined travelers once hurrying beneath the clock toward morning trains.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Both quiet and dead suggest that the station no longer has much activity. How does each word reveal a different attitude toward the station?

2. Compare preserve and restore as Ms. Ibarra and Mr. Chen use them. What does each word suggest should happen to the waiting room?

3. How does renovation differ in connotation from restoring in this passage? Use one detail from the contractor's plan to support your answer.

4. Why might Mara call the station weathered while her brother calls it dilapidated? Explain how the two words could shape a reader's view of the station.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence scene about a building or object that needs attention. Use three related words with different connotations to describe its age or condition, and make the context show each word's meaning.

ANSWER KEY

Words Shape Places

GRADE 10 · 10.L.V.3.c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words or phrases that describe the station, its condition, or plans for its future. In the margin, number pairs of underlined words that describe a similar idea but create different feelings or judgments. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Both quiet and dead suggest that the station no longer has much activity. How does each word reveal a different attitude toward the station?	**Quiet suggests the grandfather sees the station with calm reflection or affection. Dead suggests Mara's brother sees it as lifeless and abandoned.**
2	Compare preserve and restore as Ms. Ibarra and Mr. Chen use them. What does each word suggest should happen to the waiting room?	**Preserve suggests keeping the room's existing historic features, such as the benches and lamps. Restore suggests repairing and cleaning the room so it can return to better condition.**
3	How does renovation differ in connotation from restoring in this passage? Use one detail from the contractor's plan to support your answer.	**Renovation suggests updating or changing the room for a new use, while restoring suggests repairing its existing character. The glass doors, bright paint, and café show modernization.**
4	Why might Mara call the station weathered while her brother calls it dilapidated? Explain how the two words could shape a reader's view of the station.	**Weathered suggests age and use, with some dignity or history. Dilapidated suggests serious decay and neglect, making the station seem more unsafe or hopeless.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The caretaker called the library aged, pointing to its oak shelves and hand-carved doorway. The inspector called its wiring worn after finding frayed insulation behind a wall. The mayor called the unused annex decrepit, and she ordered the floor closed until repairs could be made.

Accept answers that identify both the shared basic meaning and the different emotional, evaluative, or implied meanings of the words. For the open task, accept varied word choices when the context clearly distinguishes their connotations.