

Carver High School

9th Grade ELA

4th Nine Weeks

**Teachers: L. Price and
A. Womack**

DENOTATION/CONNOTATION EXERCISE

I. For each pair of words and a phrase, list the one that is positive in the "Positive Connotation" (P) category, the one that is negative in the "Negative Connotation" (N) category, and the phrase that is a more neutral definition for both words in the "Denotation" (D) column.

1. gaze _____, look steadily _____, stare _____
2. fragrance _____, odor _____, a smell sensed by the olfactory nerve _____
3. brainwash _____, persuade _____, influence one way or another _____
4. delayed _____, not on time _____, tardy _____
5. somewhat interested _____, nosy _____, curious _____
6. lazily _____, without haste _____, leisurely _____
7. ask of someone _____, demand _____, request _____
8. gathering _____, a large group _____, mob _____
9. slim _____, skinny _____, less than average build _____
10. discuss with others _____, debate _____, argue _____
11. observe _____, watch _____, spy _____
12. a young age _____, youthful _____, immature _____
13. not having a care _____, irresponsible _____, carefree _____
14. unique _____, not commonly found _____, strange _____
15. find _____, detect _____, snoop _____

	<i>Positive Connotation</i>	<i>Denotation</i>	<i>Negative Connotation</i>
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
12.			
13.			
14.			
15.			

Abigail Adams: Persuading Her Husband

Abigail Adams (1744-1818) was the wife of Founding Father John Adams. While he attended the Continental Congress in Philadelphia in 1776, Abigail wrote to her husband often. Below is part of her letter from March 31, 1776.

I long to hear that you have declared an independency. And, by the way, in the new code of laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make, I desire you would remember the ladies and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the husbands. Remember, all men would be tyrants if they could. If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation.

That your sex are naturally tyrannical is a truth so thoroughly established as to admit of no dispute; but such of you as wish to be happy willingly give up the harsh title of master for the more tender and endearing one of friend. Why, then, not put it out of the power of the vicious and the lawless to use us with cruelty and indignity with impunity? Men of sense in all ages abhor those customs which treat us only as the vassals of your sex; regard us then as beings placed by Providence under your protection, and in imitation of the Supreme Being make use of that power only for our happiness.



What is Abigail trying to convince her husband to do? Give two examples of how she attempts to persuade him.

Churchill's Speech: We Shall Fight on the Beaches

Great Britain's Prime Minister Winston Churchill delivered a speech to the House of Commons on June 4, 1940. Churchill explained that the British effort in World War II was not going well and that a German invasion of Britain was possible. A gifted orator, Churchill knew he must convince the British people that victory would come someday. When Churchill gave his speech, the U.S. had not yet entered World War II. He references his hope that "the New World," meaning the U.S., would join the war. Below is the end of his speech.

I have, myself, full confidence that if all do their duty, if nothing is neglected, and if the best arrangements are made, as they are being made, we shall prove ourselves once again able to defend our Island home, to ride out the storm of war, and to outlive the menace of tyranny, if necessary for years, if necessary alone.

At any rate, that is what we are going to try to do. That is the resolve of His Majesty's Government - every man of them. That is the will of Parliament and the nation.

The British Empire and the French Republic, linked together in their cause and in their need, will defend to the death their native soil, aiding each other like good comrades to the utmost of their strength.

Even though large tracts of Europe and many old and famous States have fallen or may fall into the grip of the Gestapo and all the odious apparatus of Nazi rule, we shall not flag or fail.

We shall go on to the end, we shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, we shall defend our Island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender, and even if, which I do not for a moment believe, this Island or a large part of it were subjugated and starving, then our Empire beyond the seas, armed and guarded by the British Fleet, would carry on the struggle, until, in God's good time, the New World, with all its power and might, steps forth to the rescue and the liberation of the old.

Why does Churchill repeat the phrase "we shall fight" over and over? How does it support the main purpose of this speech?

Find the Meaning: JFK's Inaugural Speech

John F. Kennedy was inaugurated as President on January 21, 1961. At age 43, he was the youngest person to be elected President, and the first President to be born in the 20th century. Below is part of his inaugural speech.

We dare not forget today that we are the heirs of that first revolution. Let the word go forth from this time and place, to friend and foe alike, that the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans, born in this century, tempered by war, disciplined by a hard and bitter peace, proud of our ancient heritage, and unwilling to witness or permit the slow undoing of those human rights to which this nation has always been committed, and to which we are committed today at home and around the world.

Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty.

This much we pledge – and more.

To those old allies whose cultural and spiritual origins we share, we pledge the loyalty of faithful friends. United there is little we cannot do in a host of cooperative ventures. Divided there is little we can do; for we dare not meet a powerful challenge at odds and split asunder.

To those new states whom we welcome to the ranks of the free, we pledge our word that one form of colonial control shall not have passed away merely to be replaced by a far more iron tyranny. We shall not always expect to find them supporting our view. But we shall always hope to find them strongly supporting their own freedom; and to remember that, in the past, those who foolishly sought power by riding the back of the tiger ended up inside.

One of the most famous lines from the President's speech is: "the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans..." Explain in your own words what he means. What is the torch? Why is does it apply to President Kennedy?

President Kennedy reminds his audience that "those who foolishly sought power by riding the back of the tiger ended up inside." What does the tiger represent? How does it relate to supporting freedom?

Two Viewpoints of the Same Event:

LEE SURRENDERS TO GRANT, 1865

On April 9, 1865 Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered to Union General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House, Virginia. This effectively ended the Civil War. Below is Grant's account of the surrender from his autobiography published in 1885. The painting of the event was made in 1867. Lee is seated in the center left, Grant is seated in the center right.



What General Lee's feelings were I do not know. As he was a man of much dignity, with an impassible face, it was impossible to say whether he felt inwardly glad that the end had finally come, or felt sad over the result, and was too manly to show it. Whatever his feelings, they were entirely concealed from my observation; but my own feelings, which had been quite jubilant on the receipt of his letter, were sad and depressed. I felt like anything rather than rejoicing at the downfall of a foe who had fought so long and valiantly, and had suffered so much for a cause, though that cause was, I believe, one of the worst for which a people ever fought, and one for which there was the least excuse. I do not question, however, the sincerity of the great mass of those who were opposed to us.

General Lee was dressed in a full uniform which was entirely new, and was wearing a sword of considerable value, very likely the sword which had been presented by the State of Virginia; at all events, it was an entirely different sword from the one that would

ordinarily be worn in the field. In my rough traveling suit, the uniform of a private with the straps of a lieutenant-general, I must have contrasted very strangely with a man so handsomely dressed, six feet high and of faultless form. But this was not a matter that I thought of until afterwards.

We soon fell into a conversation about old army times. He remarked that he remembered me very well in the old army; and I told him that as a matter of course I remembered him perfectly, but from the difference in our rank and years (there being about sixteen years' difference in our ages), I had thought it very likely that I had not attracted his attention sufficiently to be remembered by him after such a long interval. Our conversation grew so pleasant that I almost forgot the object of our meeting. After the conversation had run on in this style for some time, General Lee called my attention to the object of our meeting, and said that he had asked for this interview for the purpose of getting from me the terms I proposed to give his army.

Compare Grant's account of the meeting with the painting. Do you think they are consistent with each other? Why?

Character Analysis in *The Red Badge of Courage*

In Stephen Crane's novel, The Red Badge of Courage, Henry Fleming is a young Union soldier in the Civil War. Before he enlisted, Henry had a romantic view of war. This passage takes place before Henry's first battle as a soldier.

However, he perceived now that it did not greatly matter what kind of soldiers he was going to fight, so long as they fought, which fact no one disputed. There was a more serious problem. He lay in his bunk pondering upon it. He tried to mathematically prove to himself that he would not run from a battle.

Previously he had never felt obliged to wrestle too seriously with this question. In his life he had taken certain things for granted, never challenging his belief in ultimate success, and bothering little about means and roads. But here he was confronted with a thing of moment. It had suddenly appeared to him that perhaps in a battle he might run. He was forced to admit that as far as war was concerned he knew nothing of himself.

A sufficient time before he would have allowed the problem to kick its heels at the outer portals of his mind, but now he felt compelled to give serious attention to it.

A little panic-fear grew in his mind. As his imagination went forward to a fight, he saw hideous possibilities. He contemplated the lurking menaces of the future, and failed in an effort to see himself standing stoutly in the midst of them. He recalled his visions of broken-bladed glory, but in the shadow of the impending tumult he suspected them to be impossible pictures.

He sprang from the bunk and began to pace nervously to and fro. "Good Lord, what's th' matter with me?" he said aloud.

He felt that in this crisis his laws of life were useless. Whatever he had learned of himself was here of no avail. He was an unknown quantity. He saw that he would again be obliged to experiment as he had in early youth. He must accumulate information of himself, and meanwhile he resolved to remain close upon his guard lest those qualities of which he knew nothing should everlastingly disgrace him. "Good Lord!" he repeated in dismay.



In this passage, Henry is facing a part of himself that he knew nothing about. What is this characteristic?



Charles Dickens Visits America

In 1842 Charles Dickens was probably the most famous English language author in the world. He was received around the world as a major celebrity, often mobbed by fans. It was in that year that Dickens visited the United States. He wrote and published his thoughts about his visit in a book *American Notes for General Circulation*. Below is a passage about his visit to Washington, D.C.

Chapter VIII

Washington. The Legislature. And The President's House

The President's mansion is more like an English club-house, both within and without, than any other kind of establishment with which I can compare it. The ornamental ground about it has been laid out in garden walks; they are pretty, and agreeable to the eye; though they have that uncomfortable air of having been made yesterday, which is far from favourable to the display of such beauties.

My first visit to this house was on the morning after my arrival, when I was carried thither by an official gentleman, who was so kind as to charge himself with my presentation to the President.

We entered a large hall, and having twice or thrice rung a bell which nobody answered, walked without further ceremony through the rooms on the ground floor, as diverse other gentlemen (mostly with their hats on, and their hands in their pockets) were doing very leisurely. Some of these had ladies with them, to whom they were showing the premises; others were lounging on the chairs and sofas; others, in a perfect state of exhaustion from listlessness, were yawning drearily. The greater portion of this assemblage were rather asserting their supremacy than doing anything else, as they had no particular business there, that anybody knew of. A few were closely eyeing the movables, as if to make quite sure that the President (who was far from popular) had not made away with any of the furniture, or sold the fixtures for his private benefit.

After glancing at these loungers; who were scattered over a pretty drawing-room, opening upon a terrace which commanded a beautiful prospect of the river and the adjacent country; and who were sauntering, too, about a larger state-room called the Eastern Drawing-room; we went up-stairs into another chamber, where were certain visitors, waiting for audiences.



1. Dickens talks about the gardens having the "uncomfortable air of having been made yesterday." Explain how the garden might be a metaphor for the United States.
2. Write a short paragraph comparing the White House that Dickens describes and the White House of today. What is something that happened then that would not happen now. Why?

Elegy for Lincoln: Walt Whitman's Poem

President Abraham Lincoln shot by John Wilkes Booth and died on April 15, 1865 in Washington, D.C. The Civil War had ended just six days earlier when Confederate General Lee surrendered to Union General Grant.

Later in 1865 Walt Whitman, a poet and journalist, wrote the poem "O Captain! My Captain" about Lincoln and his tragic death. The poem is an elegy, which is a serious poem usually about someone's death.

O Captain! My Captain!

by Walt Whitman

O Captain! My Captain! our fearful trip is done;
The ship has weather'd every rack, the prize we sought is won;
The port is near, the bells I hear, the people all exulting,
While follow eyes the steady keel, the vessel grim and daring:

But O heart! heart! heart!
O the bleeding drops of red,
Where on the deck my Captain lies,
Fallen cold and dead

O Captain! My Captain! rise up and hear the bells;
Rise up—for you the flag is flung—for you the bugle trills;
For you bouquets and ribbon'd wreaths—for you the shores a-crowding;
For you they call, the swaying mass, their eager faces turning;

Here captain! dear father!
This arm beneath your head;
It is some dream that on the deck,
You've fallen cold and dead.

My Captain does not answer, his lips are pale and still;
My father does not feel my arm, he has no pulse nor will;
The ship is anchor'd safe and sound, its voyage closed and done;
From fearful trip, the victor ship, comes in with object won;

Exult, O shores, and ring, O bells!
But I, with mournful tread,
Walk the deck my captain lies,
Fallen cold and dead

Name: _____



Short Answer

1. Who does the Captain represent in the poem?

2. What does the ship represent in the poem?

3. What do bells and "bouquets and ribbon'd wreaths" represent in the poem?

4. Give two examples of alliteration in the poem.

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

by Washington Irving

Finding the Main Idea

Washington Irving wrote "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" in 1820. It is a haunting tale about a thin and timid teacher named Ichabod Crane, who has a terrifying encounter with the legendary Headless Horseman. In this passage, Ichabod is leaving for a party on an old, borrowed horse.



Ichabod Crane runs from the Headless Horseman.

Ichabod was a suitable figure for such a steed. He rode with short stirrups, which brought his knees nearly up to the pommel of the saddle; his sharp elbows stuck out like grasshoppers'; he carried his whip perpendicularly in his hand, like a sceptre, and as his horse jogged on, the motion of his arms was not unlike the flapping of a pair of wings. A small wool hat rested on the top of his nose, for so his scanty strip of forehead might be called, and the skirts of his black coat fluttered out almost to the horse's tail. Such was the appearance of Ichabod and his steed as they shambled out of the gate of Hans Van Ripper, and it was altogether such an apparition as is seldom to be met with in broad daylight.

The Main Idea and Supporting Ideas

Write the main idea of the paragraph in your own words.

Write three supporting ideas for the main idea.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Mark Twain: How to Tell a Story

While Mark Twain wrote many fictional works, he also wrote non-fiction. Among his non-fiction works are his essays. Below is the beginning of his essay “How to Tell a Story” published in 1897.

↔ How to Tell a Story ↔

I do not claim that I can tell a story as it ought to be told. I only claim to know how a story ought to be told, for I have been almost daily in the company of the most expert story-tellers for many years.

There are several kinds of stories, but only one difficult kind—the humorous. I will talk mainly about that one. The humorous story is American, the comic story is English, the witty story is French. The humorous story depends for its effect upon the manner of the telling; the comic story and the witty story upon the matter.

The humorous story may be spun out to great length, and may wander around as much as it pleases, and arrive nowhere in particular; but the comic and witty stories must be brief and end with a point. The humorous story bubbles gently along, the others burst.

The humorous story is strictly a work of art—high and delicate art—and only an artist can tell it; but no art is necessary in telling the comic and the witty story; anybody can do it. The art of telling a humorous story—understand, I mean by word of mouth, not print—was created in America, and has remained at home.

The humorous story is told gravely; the teller does his best to conceal the fact that he even dimly suspects that there is anything funny about it; but the teller of the comic story tells you beforehand that it is one of the funniest things he has ever heard, then tells it with eager delight, and is the first person to laugh when he gets through. And sometimes, if he has had good success, he is so glad and happy that he will repeat the “nub” of it and glance around from face to face, collecting applause, and then repeat it again. It is a pathetic thing to see.

↔ Questions ↔

1. To what country does Twain say the witty story belongs?
2. What type of story must be long?
3. Who can tell a humorous story?
4. In which type of story does the teller repeat the end, or “nub”?
5. Is Twain talking about stories told out loud, printed stories, or both?

Tension in The Pit and the Pendulum

Edgar Allan Poe was a master of creating tension in his writings. Below is a passage from Poe's short story, "The Pit and the Pendulum." In the story, the narrator has been convicted during the Spanish Inquisition of an unnamed crime and sentenced to death. He is tied on the floor and a large, sharp blade is swinging back and forth towards his body.

The vibration of the pendulum was at right angles to my length. I saw that the crescent was designed to cross the region of the heart. It would fray the serge of my robe—it would return and repeat its operations—again—and again. Notwithstanding terrifically wide sweep (some thirty feet or more) and the hissing vigor of its descent, sufficient to sunder these very walls of iron, still the fraying of my robe would be all that, for several minutes, it would accomplish. And at this thought I paused. I dared not go farther than this reflection. I dwelt upon it with a pertinacity of attention—as if, in so dwelling, I could arrest here the descent of the steel. I forced myself to ponder upon the sound of the crescent as it should pass across the garment—upon the peculiar thrilling sensation which the friction of cloth produces on the nerves. I pondered upon all this frivolity until my teeth were on edge.

Down—steadily down it crept. I took a frenzied pleasure in contrasting its downward with its lateral velocity. To the

right—to the left—far and wide—with the shriek of a damned spirit; to my heart with the stealthy pace of the tiger! I alternately laughed and howled as the one or the other idea grew predominant.

Down—certainly, relentlessly down! It vibrated within three inches of my bosom! I struggled violently, furiously, to free my left arm. This was free only from the elbow to the hand. I could reach the latter, from the platter beside me, to my mouth, with great effort, but no farther. Could I have broken the fastenings above the elbow, I would have seized and attempted to arrest the pendulum. I might as well have attempted to arrest an avalanche!

Down—still unceasingly—still inevitably down! I gasped and struggled at each vibration. I shrunk convulsively at its every sweep. My eyes followed its outward or upward whirls with the eagerness of the most unmeaning despair; they closed themselves spasmodically at the descent, although death would have been a relief, oh! how unspeakable!

How does Poe add tension to the passage? Use text examples to support your analysis.

Name: _____



Formal to Informal: Make the Change



While formal writing is important, sometimes it is helpful to change a formal style into an informal one in order to clearly understand the meaning. This is especially true for historical texts and classic literature.

Below is the introduction to the United States Declaration of Independence. Rewrite it in an informal style.



When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.



Name: _____

Writing Introductions: Write a Complete Introduction

Most introductions include three parts: the lead, which catches the attention of the reader, the bridge which connects the lead to the topic, and the thesis statement which is a sentence that states the author's opinion or the main idea of the text. The thesis may also forecast the important points of the text.

Below are two essay topics and the main points that should be covered in the essay. Write an introduction for each topic. Be sure to state a position in your thesis statement.

1. Subject: Traits of a good student

Main points: works hard, pays attention, curious, respectful

2. Subject: Removing candy machines in schools

Main points: health, cost, nutrition