Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

“It is the little things that matter!”

Word Choice

In literature the little things that matter are words, which are chosen carefully by the author. Words affect meaning and establish **tone** Word choice is also important because it can create **mood**.

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**Key Words:** word choice, diction, connotation, denotation, tone, mood

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**Directions:** Read the poem below paying close attention to the poet’s choice of action verbs and descriptive words.

**Tone**

**Mood**

Murky Mondays. Lockers slam,

Doorways clog and hallways jam.

Sweetest Ruby smiles so wide –

She can’t see me shyly hide…

Wondrous Monday. Lockers shine.

Ruby smiled at me in line.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Lines** | **Words with Positive Meaning** | **Words with Negative Meaning** |
| 1-2 |  |  |
| 3-4 |  |  |
| 5-6 |  |  |

Word Choice in “Jared”

Excerpt from paragraph 52 of “Jared” by David Gifaldi.

*But of course Jared had heard it all before, and he closed himself off. Sealed himself into a box of silence. The same box he closed around himself in school or at home when his mind threw up the white flag of surrender, pleading for respite from the hell of mirrors and murmurs and pitying expressions. Inside the box the walls were smooth and dark and comforting—the air warm and fluid and only slightly fetid. He stayed there in the safe and the dark and the quiet. Until Don’s voice came through like a shoulder-nudging wake-up call: “I’m afraid our time is up for today. We’ll see you next time.”*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *Word* | *Denotation* | *Connotation* | *Affect* |
| 1. |  |  |  |  |
| 2. |  |  |  |  |
| 3. |  |  |  |  |
| 4. |  |  |  |  |
| 5. |  |  |  |  |
| 6. |  |  |  |  |
| 7. |  |  |  |  |