



6.RC.12: Distinguish among the connotations of words with similar denotations.	
Reporting Category: Reading Comprehension	Subdomain: Understanding and Using Vocabulary
Assessed On: ☐ Checkpoint 1 ☒ Checkpoint 2 ☐ Checkpoint 3 ☒ Summative	
6.RC.12 Instructional Framework	ILEARN Stimulus Specifications
Content Limits: • Include items that are: Passage Based and Standalone ▾ • Avoid items that focus on Greek/Latin roots/affixes, or figurative language • Use informational or literary text to provide context for items related to this standard.	
Clarifications: • Comprehension is enhanced when readers are able to distinguish between the dictionary meaning (denotation) and the implied meaning (connotation) of a writer's words, and recognize nuances in word meaning. • Connotation can be perceived in three ways: Positive, Negative, or Neutral ○ Positive (e.g., guest): These are feel-good words. The feelings, emotions, and ideas associated with a particular word are used to create a positive reaction from the reader. ○ Neutral (e.g., visitor): These are not very emotionally charged, depending on the context. ○ Negative (e.g., intruder): These words are often linked with negative thoughts, emotions, or ideas. They are often used to create a negative reaction from the reader.	
Items Tagged as Reading Comprehension Items for Text-to-Speech: Yes	
Expected Academic Vocabulary: Connotation, Denotation	
Proficiency Level Descriptors and Example Items	
Below Proficiency: Interpret the connotative meaning of a word, in context.	
Read the sentence and answer the question. Madison was very <u>easygoing</u> about the project. She didn't let the stress get to her. The word <u>easygoing</u> most likely suggests Madison is A. relaxed	DOK 2 - These items require students to interpret the connotative meaning of a word, in context. Students select the word that most closely aligns with the implied meaning of the targeted word. The projected difficulty for this item is easy.



B. lazy C. uncaring D. generous [Multiple Choice] OR Which word best replaces the word <u>easygoing</u>? [Multiple Choice] OR Which word is closest in meaning to the word <u>easygoing</u> as it is used in the sentence? [Multiple Choice]	
In the passage, Frank says he felt like an “intruder” at the party. What does the connotation of the word <u>intruder</u> most likely suggest about Frank? A. He was not made to feel welcome. B. He did not know many people. C. He was not invited. D. He was kicked out. [Multiple Choice] OR Read the sentence and answer the question. [Passage excerpt with underlined target word] What does the author suggest to the reader with the use of the word [insert target word]? [Multiple Choice]	DOK 2 - These items require students to interpret the connotative meaning of a word, in context. Students use context clues from the passage or excerpt and apply their knowledge of unpacking implied meanings to select the correct interpretation of the word. The projected difficulty for these items is medium.



OR Read the sentence and answer the question. [Passage excerpt with underlined target word] Why does the word [target word] carry a positive/negative connotation in the passage? A. It shows that... B. It conveys.. C. It indicates... D. It suggests... [Multiple Choice]	
Approaching Proficiency: Interpret the connotation of multiple words with shared literal meanings, in context.	
The words <u>intruder</u>, <u>invader</u>, and <u>trespasser</u> are used in paragraphs 9-11 to describe the cat found on Sarah and Matthew’s porch. Which connotation is suggested by the shared meanings of these words, as they are used in this passage? A. a sense that the cat is unwelcome B. a sense of compassion toward the cat C. a sense of desire to help the cat D. a sense there is a lack of knowledge about cats [Multiple Choice] Read the sentences and answer the question. “Jon’s <u>drive</u> for perfection and his <u>passion</u> for science came together to keep him awake. He stayed up all night working on his project.” (paragraph 2)	DOK 2 - These items require students to interpret the connotations of multiple words with shared literal meanings, in context. Students must locate and analyze details provided in the text to unpack the implied meanings or connotations of more than one word in order to answer the question. The projected difficulty for these items is medium.



What do the words “drive” and “passion” suggest about Jon?

- A. a sudden interest
- B. a constant struggle
- C. a peaceful nature
- D. a strong desire

[Multiple Choice]

OR

Select the word the author uses to suggest that the cat is unwelcome.

Sarah was working on homework in her room when her brother, Matthew, intruded. “It seems we have a visitor,” he said. Their dog, Fido, was barking up a storm at the invader he spied on the back porch. Sarah quickly intervened. “Fido, stop barking at our guest!” Matthew looked surprised. “Fluffy belongs to Mrs. Smith, up the road. I am taking care of her cat while she’s away.”

[Hot Text Selectable]

At Proficiency: Compare or contrast the connotations of multiple words with similar literal meanings, in context.

The words guest, visitor, and intruder have similar meanings, referring to someone who is not in their own home.

Complete the table to describe the different connotations of these similar words.

	Positive	Neutral	Negative
He was a <u>visitor</u> at the museum.	☐	☒	☐
He was a <u>guest</u>	☒	☐	☐

DOK 2 - This item requires students to compare and contrast the connotations of multiple words with similar literal meanings, in context. Students distinguish between positive, neutral, and/or negative connotations of words with similar denotations. The projected difficulty for this item is easy.



<table><tr><td>at the museum.</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>He was an <u>intruder</u> at the museum.</td><td>☐</td><td>☐</td><td>☒</td></tr></table>	at the museum.				He was an <u>intruder</u> at the museum.	☐	☐	☒	
at the museum.									
He was an <u>intruder</u> at the museum.	☐	☐	☒						
[Table Match]									
Read the sentence and answer the question. “Their dog, Fido, was barking up a storm at the <u>invader</u> he spied on the back porch.” (paragraph 5) Select two words that share similar connotations to the word <u>invader</u>, as it is used in the sentence. OR Which words could replace the word <u>invader</u> without changing the meaning of the sentence? Choose two. ☐ visitor ☐ guest ☒ intruder ☐ company ☒ trespasser [Multiple Select]	DOK 2 - These items require students to compare and contrast the connotations of multiple words with similar literal meanings, in context. Students apply their knowledge of positive, neutral, and/or negative connotations of words with similar denotations to select the appropriate answer. The projected difficulty for these items is medium.								
Read the sentences and answer the question. “The <u>visitor</u> signed in at the front office before walking down the hallway.” (paragraph 2) “We offered our <u>guest</u> a glass of water and a seat in the front of the classroom.” (paragraph 5) Why does the author most likely use the word <u>guest</u> instead of the word <u>visitor</u>, which has a	DOK 2 - These items require students to compare or contrast the connotations of multiple words with similar literal meanings, in context. Students apply their knowledge of positive, neutral, and/or negative connotations of words with similar denotations in order to analyze and explain an author’s word choice. The projected difficulty for these items is hard.								



similar meaning?

- A. to show
- B. to suggest...
- C. to indicate...
- D. to emphasize...

[Multiple Choice]

OR

Read the sentences and answer the question.

"The visitor signed in at the front office before walking down the hallway." (paragraph 2)

"The dog barked loudly when it sensed an intruder near the back fence." (paragraph 5)

How do the connotations of the words visitor and intruder differ in the sentences?

- A. "Intruder" shows...while "visitor" shows...
- B. "Visitor" shows...while "intruder" shows...
- C. "Intruder" shows...while "visitor" shows...
- D. "Visitor" shows...while "intruder" shows...

[Multiple Choice]

OR

Read the sentences and answer the question.

"It seems we have a visitor." (paragraph 2)

"Fido, stop barking at our guest!" (paragraph 4)

Both underlined words have similar meanings.
How is the connotation different for each word, as it is used in this passage?

- A. "Visitor" suggests the cat has not been**



seen before, while “guest” suggests the cat is known or invited.

- B. “Visitor” suggests the cat was invited, while “guest” suggests the cat showed up on its own.
- C. “Visitor” suggests the cat is going to stay for a while, while “guest” suggests the cat will be leaving soon.
- D. “Visitor” suggests the cat is welcome, while “guest” suggests the cat is lost.

[Multiple Choice]

Above Proficiency: Interpret the connotative meaning of a phrase, in context.

Read the paragraph and answer the question.

“Jon stayed up all night working on the project. When the next morning dawned glaringly sunny, he slumped in his chair and flipped the hood up on his sweatshirt.” (paragraph 4)

What connotation does the phrase “dawned glaringly sunny” suggest?

- A. a positive connotation because Jon thinks the morning is full of opportunities
- B. a negative connotation because Jon didn’t get any sleep**
- C. a positive connotation because it means Jon is finished with his project
- D. a neutral connotation because Jon does not have any feelings about the morning

DOK 2 - This item requires students to interpret the connotative meaning of a phrase in context. Students must locate and analyze details provided in the text to unpack the implied meaning or connotation of a phrase in order to answer the question. The projected difficulty for this item is hard.