**Connotation Lesson**

**Denotation:** the dictionary definition of a word.

Example: the words, childish, childlike and youthful have the same denotative meaning. They all refer to someone have the qualities of a child.

**Connotation:** The associations and implications we attach to a word. We say words have a positive connotation or a negative connotation. Some words are neutral, evoking neither positive or negative feelings.

Examples:
- **Childish** has a negative implication or association. (being selfish or immature)
- **Youthful** has a positive implication or association. (lively and energetic)
- **Childlike** is probably, for most people, more neutral. (being childlike can be a compliment or an insult, depending on the context).

What are some words with a positive connotation? Negative connotation?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Positive</th>
<th>Negative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Home, mansion, cottage, suite, hotel, bedroom</td>
<td>Shack, ghetto, slum, cave, prison, jail, motel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunny, blue skies, breeze</td>
<td>Storm, rain, lightening, earthquake, wind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heaven, angels, god</td>
<td>Hell, demons, Satan, devil,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring, summer</td>
<td>Winter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver, gold</td>
<td>Asbestos, uranium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sink, fall, trip, rip, tear, lie, deceive, cry, drag, hate, attack, belittle, etc.</td>
<td>Hop, skip, dance, sing, heal, mend, love, smile, laugh, forgive, etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Point of emphasis:** Writers use connotation to convey mood, tone and themes.

Write a connotation poem in your composition book.

1. Setting
2. Character
3. An action
4. A conflict
5. Shift: a glimpse into the future (switch connotation from + to − OR − to +

1. Winter fell on the **gray shack**.
2. An **icy skeleton** of a man
3. **Dragging** his soul behind the **cold walls**
4. **Night is black**
5. One day a **bloom** will **spring** from his **green** earth. **Shift**

Underlined words have a negative connotation; double underlined words have a positive connotation.