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| **Focus: Connotation vs. Denotation**  **Materials:** copies of dentation vs. connotation notes, copies of Cockroach poems, highlighters, pen/pencil, glue stick |
| **Before Reading: Student Notes**  **Say to students:**   1. Glue the student notes in your journal. Highlight the key words as we discuss the notes. 2. What comes to mind when you hear the word snake? The dictionary meaning of a snake is a limbless reptile with a long scaly body. This dictionary meaning is called the denotation of the word. It is literal. It means exactly what it says. The emotions and feelings associated with a word is called the connotative meaning or connotation. If you called a person a snake in the grass, is that a compliment? No, you are saying the person isn’t to be trusted. Connotation depends on the person or the reader. Writers often choose words that make readers feel a specific way to help express their point. Some words have positive connotations or meanings while others are negative. 3. What additional meanings or feelings are expressed in each sentence?   -I was ***surprised*** to see a ghost.  -I was ***amazed*** to see a ghost.  -I was ***astonished*** to see a ghost.  \*Which word was the most positive?  4. You and your team have been given the job to name a new mascot for the new high school that you and your friends will attend next year. Decide on the mascot. Explain the connotation of the mascot. What feelings and emotions do you expect the mascot to evoke? What does the mascot say about your new school? Would you want to wear school T-shirts and athletic uniforms with this mascot on it? There is one stipulation. You have to choose from the following list:  Meteors Buzzard Elephants  Ferrets Eagles Grey Hounds  Hippos Cheetahs Sloths  **Discussion:**   1. Show scholars the picture of the cockroach. 2. **Say to scholars:** What emotions and opinions pop into your mind when you see the cockroach? How would you describe a cockroach? *(A pest, nasty creature/bug, disgusting, etc…)* This is your **connotative** meaning… 3. What is a cockroach? What would be the **denotative** meaning? How does the dictionary define a cockroach? (*a nocturnal insect usually brown with flattened oval bodies)* 4. So, what does a cockroach mean to you? Is it merely an insect or is it a household nuisance and a disgusting creature? |
| **During Reading:**  **Say to scholars:**   1. We will read the two poems together. As we read, think about the emotions and feelings created by the poems. 2. Reread the denotative meaning of a cockroach. Which of the denotative characteristics of a cockroach do both poets include? 3. What characteristics does Wild give his reader that are not in the dictionary definition? 4. What additional characteristics does Morley give to cockroaches? 5. In each poem, the insect acquires meaning beyond its dictionary definition. Both poets lead us away from a literal view of cockroaches to a nonliteral or connotative view. Which poem gives a more positive view? Which details help create this connotation? Which poem gives a more negative view? Which details help create this connotation? |
| **After Reading:**  Which poet comes the closest to expressing your view about cockroaches? |
| **Wrapping Up:**   * Complete North Star forms. * Gather and store materials. * Read lesson #19 for the next session. |