



BASE WORD CREATIONS

place

Use the base word and the directions to create 3 new words below. Type the new words you create in the text boxes.

Add a **prefix** to change the meaning to **place again**.

Add a **suffix** to change the meaning to **the action of putting someone or something in a particular place**.

Add a **prefix** to change the meaning to **place in the wrong area**.



Lesson 3: Using Text Details in Writing

 Printable Lesson Guide

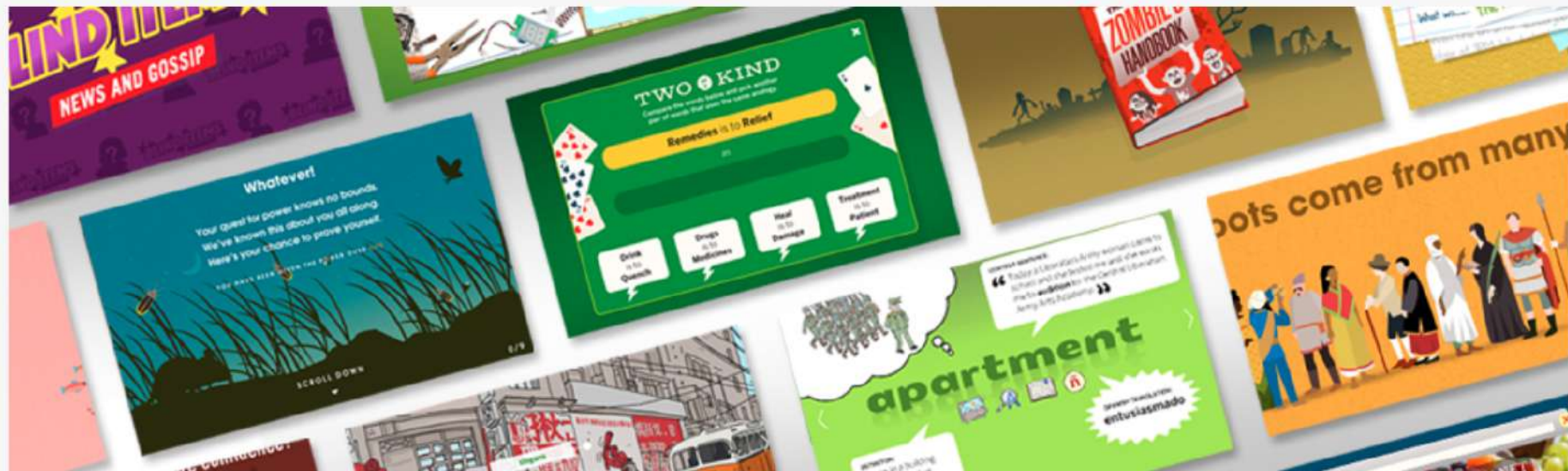
Lesson Objective

Reading: Students will identify key details in a description to build an interpretation of a character and determine the literal and connotative meaning of Dahl's overall adjective for the character.

Writing: Students will stake a claim about a character and use text details to support that claim.

Open the Vocab App.

05:00



Is Ken acting in a MODEST way in this video?

Modest- adjective

She accepted the award with **modesty**, as she was not typically a person to brag about her achievements.



Being modest about my skills



Nailing the job once I try.



What grabs Dahl's attention about this character?

What types of details does he choose to use to describe her?

Directions

Closely reread the passage and consider the precise details Dahl uses in his description of Mrs. Pratchett.

*Excerpt from Chapter 3 in
Boy: Tales of Childhood by
Roald Dahl*

The bicycle and the sweet-shop

Her name was Mrs
Pratchett. She was a
small skinny old hag
with a moustache on her

06:00

3

READING

Select Text: Interpret Details



1

The bicycle and the sweet-shop

24 The sweet-shop in Llandaff in the year 1923 was the very centre of our lives. To us, it was what a bar is to a drunk, or a church is to a Bishop. Without it, there would have been little to live for. But it had one terrible drawback, this sweet-shop. The woman who owned it was a horror. We hated her and we had good reason for doing so.

25 Her name was Mrs Pratchett. She was a small skinny old hag with a moustache on her upper lip and a mouth as sour as a green gooseberry. She never smiled. She never welcomed us when we went in, and the only times she spoke were when she said things like, 'I'm watchin' you so keep yer thievin' fingers off them chocolates!' Or 'I don't want you in 'ere just to look around! Either you forks out or you gets out!'

26 But by far the most loathsome thing about Mrs Pratchett was the filth that clung around her. Her apron was grey and greasy. Her blouse had bits of breakfast all over it, toast-crumbs and tea stains and splotches of dried egg-yolk. It was her hands, however, that disturbed us most. They were disgusting. They were black with dirt and grime. They looked as though they had been putting lumps of coal on the fire all day long. And do not forget please that it was these very hands and fingers that she plunged into the sweet-jars when we asked for a pennyworth of Treacle Toffee or Wine Gums or Nut Clusters or whatever. There were precious few health laws in those days, and nobody, least of all Mrs Pratchett, ever thought of using a little shovel for getting out the sweets as they do today. The mere sight of her grimy right hand with its black fingernails digging an ounce of Chocolate Fudge out of a jar would have caused a starving tramp to go running from the shop. But not us. Sweets were our life-blood. We would have put up with far worse than that to get them. So we simply stood and watched in sullen silence while this disgusting old woman stirred around inside the jars with her foul fingers.

27 The other thing we hated Mrs Pratchett for was her meanness. Unless you spent a whole sixpence all in one go, she wouldn't give you a bag. Instead you got your sweets twisted up in a small piece of newspaper which she tore off a pile of old Daily Mirrors lying on the counter.

Does the passage describe any of the following?

- What something looks like
- What something sounds like
- Smells and tastes
- Physical action
- Quote of what someone says/dialogue
- What something feels like

Directions

Highlight one part of the passage (a word, phrase, or sentence) that creates the most vivid picture of Mrs. Pratchett for you.

What is one idea you have about the type of person Mrs. Pratchett is when you read this part? How would you describe her to someone else?




04:00


3

READING
Select Text: Interpret Details



2

 You found a lot of places in this description of Mrs. Pratchett where Dahl uses details to create a vivid picture of her. For example, he describes her hand as “black with dirt and grime” (26). He *shows* you what her hands look like.

 Sometimes, Dahl also *tells* you about Mrs. Pratchett. For example, he writes that her hands “were disgusting” (26).

Share a detail or sentence you highlighted.

Consider whether your detail or sentence is *showing* or *telling*.

Definition of Telling

Telling is using adjectives, adverbs, and explanations that tell the reader the feeling of, or ideas about, a character, setting, or topic.

Definition of Showing

To show is to use descriptive details and precise verbs to create a vivid picture in the reader’s mind.





*Excerpt from Chapter
3 in Boy: Tales of
Childhood by Roald
Dahl*

The bicycle and the sweet-shop

The sweet-shop
in Llandaff in

Directions

Reread the description of Mrs. Pratchett and highlight three additional details that show...

- what she looks like,
- what she says,
- what she does.

POLL 1:

Do these additional details support your idea about the type of person Mrs. Pratchett is or give you a different idea?

The new details I highlighted support my idea.

The new details I highlighted give me a different idea.

5

READING

Connect Text: Adding Up the
Meaning of "Horror"



1

05:00

Write one sentence to explain your answer.



Does Dahl keep describing Mrs. Pratchett in the same way or does his description change?

Definition of connotative meaning

connotative meaning (n.): the emotions and ideas associated with a word

- 🗨 Dahl doesn't just tell us his idea about Mrs. Pratchett: "she was a horror."
- 🗨 He gives us a lot of other descriptive details that connect a number of emotions to that idea. We start to understand the meaning of the word "horror" beyond its literal definition and see the connotative meaning—the ideas and emotions that we associate with the word.

Identify and Define Emotional Connotations

by Lauren Martin / M.Ed.



Juvenile
Negative: The word, juvenile, has a negative connotative meaning because there are cultural associations with "juvenile delinquent," "juvenile detention" and prison.



Adolescent
Neutral: Adolescent is a neutral synonym for teenager since it is the objective, professional way to label a person between 13 and 19. It is not negative or positive.



Youth
Positive: Youth has positive connotative associations from media and advertisement promotions of "youthful beauty," "youthful glow," "youthful enthusiasm," etc.

Directions

1. Reread the sentence where Dahl introduces Mrs.

Pratchett: "The woman who owned it was a horror." (24)

2. Consider the following definition:

a horror: something that is very surprising,
terrifying, or revolting

POLL 2:

Review all the words and phrases Dahl uses in his description of Mrs. Pratchett. Overall, what types of details has Dahl included about Mrs. Pratchett?

Surprising

Terrifying

Revolting

3. Copy and paste a detail to support your choice.

4. How does Dahl's choice of details help you understand what he means by "horror"?

🗨️ Raise your hand if the details you highlighted...

- make you want to meet Mrs. Pratchett.
- make you glad you will never meet Mrs. Pratchett.
- make you think she is a “horror.”
- help you notice something about the way Mrs. Pratchett treats others.
- are actions that help you form an opinion about her.
- are things she says that support the idea she is a “horror.”



Dahl says earlier in the chapter that Mrs. Pratchett was “a horror” (24).

Do you agree or disagree? Describe two or three details from the passage to develop your claim about Mrs. Pratchett.

B **I** **U**

Write here...



Choose one or two of these sentence starters to help you get started writing.

- I agree/disagree that Mrs. Pratchett was a horror because _____.
- In the chapter, Dahl says that Mrs. Pratchett _____.
- This means she is/isn't a horror because _____.

12:00

6

WRITING
Write



POLL 3:

Which of the following statements do you agree with the most?

Mrs. Pratchett was probably not as bad as Dahl shows her to be.

Mrs. Pratchett was most likely exactly as Dahl shows her to be.

I am not sure how accurate Dahl's description of Mrs. Pratchett really is. I don't have enough evidence to judge



Does Dahl try to describe Mrs. Pratchett in a totally fair way?



Does he tell us what other people thought of Mrs. Pratchett or explain how she got that way?



Why doesn't he give us all those details?



CLASS
Wrap-Up



Directions

1. Reread this paragraph from Dahl's description of Mrs. Pratchett:
2. In this paragraph, what is the meaning of the word "meanness"?

A A desire to hurt the feelings of everyone she meets

B A messy appearance and overall dirtiness

C A generally unpleasant and stingy attitude

D A hilarious ability to be sarcastic



Solo Overview

1. Read "The Great Mouse Plot" from *Boy*.
2. Highlight and annotate the passage as directed.
3. Answer the questions.