



ENGLISH REVISION

Focus: You must include word-level analysis, including connotations of key words.

THERAPY:

Writers include words and phrases to have an impact on you as a reader. Words might be chosen to create an image, to reveal something about a character, to imply a more subtle idea or to encourage you to make connections with other ideas.

Connotations: meanings or associations implied by words or phrases. For example, connotations of 'evil' could be wickedness, cruelty and the Devil.

Task:

Think of the possible connotations of the underlined words in the following passage (a description of a character in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Hound of the Baskervilles*):

He was a very tall, thin man, with a long nose like a beak, which jutted out between two keen, grey eyes, set closely together and sparkling brightly from behind a pair of gold-rimmed glasses. He was clad in a professional but rather slovenly fashion, for his frock-coat was dingy and his trousers frayed.

Challenge: Find a character description in the book you are reading and note down the connotations of three key words in the description.

TEST:

Question: How does the writer use language to describe the setting?

- 1) Underline five key words used by the writer.
- 2) Analyse each word's meaning and effect, including connotations when possible.

At Waterloo we were fortunate in catching a train for Leatherhead, where we hired a trap at the station inn and drove for four or five miles through the lovely Surrey lanes. It was a perfect day, with a bright sun and a few fleecy clouds in the heavens. The trees and wayside hedges were just throwing out their first green shoots, and the air was full of the pleasant smell of the moist earth.

Challenge: Can you offer alternative ideas for your analysis?

SELF REVIEW:

Check your ideas against the suggestions below:

“Lovely” suggests the setting was attractive and beautiful to look at.

“Bright sun” portrays the setting as positive and joyful, as the sun has connotations of happiness and warmth.

“Fleecy clouds” implies the setting is comfortable and warm, as “fleece” is a comfortable material.

“Heavens” alludes to the beautiful sky but also has connotations of paradise, God and angels.

“First green shoots” demonstrates how natural and fresh the setting was, as the colour “green” has connotations of nature, life and growth.