

Reading Selection: “Eleven” by Sandra Cisneros

Before You Read

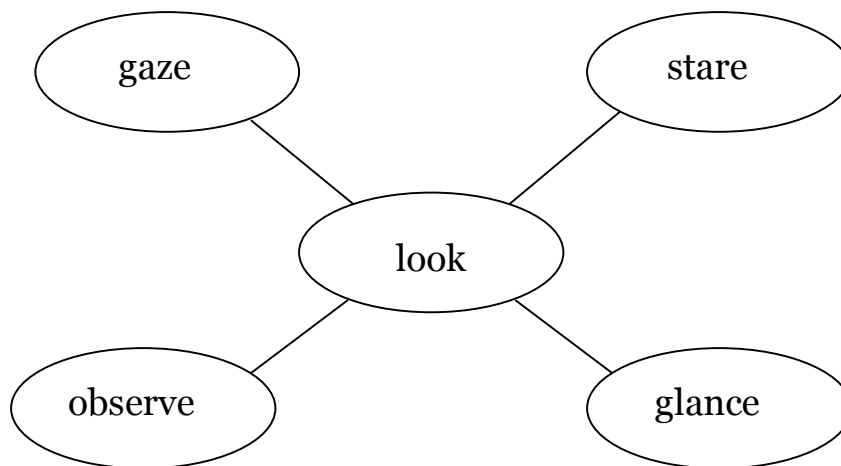
Denotation and Connotation The *denotative* meaning of a word is the dictionary definition of a word. Many words have more than one denotative meaning. Words also have *connotative* meanings. The connotation of a word refers to the feelings and associations created by the word.

Some words have a positive connotation. For example, *slender* can suggest an appearance that is more attractive than *thin*. Some words have a negative connotation. For example, *cheap* often suggests something more negative than *inexpensive*.

Positive	Negative
young	childish
plump	fat
daring	reckless

Many connotations are neither positive nor negative. They’re just feelings or ideas we associate with certain words. For example, the word *warrior* suggests an extra meaning that *soldier* doesn’t have. It makes us think of a brave and mighty fighter from the past.

The words in this web are ways of *looking*, but each word has a different connotation. For example, when someone *stares* at you, it can be upsetting.



Partner Talk With a partner, talk about what each word says about ways of looking.

Skills Preview

Reading Skill: Inferring

Sometimes people don't always say what they're thinking. It can be the same way in a story. Everything about a character isn't always stated. You'll see this in "Eleven." When you learn to draw inferences, reading becomes more interesting. You're more involved in the story. You will dig deeper into the characters and plot.

Literary Element: Repetition

Repetition is the frequent use of words or phrases in a story or a poem for emphasis. A writer may use repetition to emphasize an idea or a feeling.

As you read "Eleven," use these tips to help you understand repetition:

- Watch for words & phrases that are repeated in the story.

What do these particular words or phrases have to do with the story? What do they mean to the character?

- Pay attention to when repetition shows up in the story.

What is going on in the story when you see the words and phrases? What is the character going through and feeling at that point?

- Pay attention to the sound or rhythm of the repeated words.

How do they make you feel? Do they remind you of anything?

Get Ready to Read

Connect to the Reading

Have you ever been afraid to speak up for yourself? Have you ever been embarrassed in front of the whole class? As you read "Eleven," think of what you might do if these things happened to you.

Quick Write

In your reading journal, write about a time when you should have stood up for yourself, but you didn't. To help you organize your thoughts use the bullets below:

- What happened:
- What I did:
- What the result was:
- What I should have done:
- What would have been the result: