

**Lesson 8e: Understanding literary terms**

**Goal 5.01c:** Students will interpret literary devices such as allusion, symbolism, figurative language, flashback, dramatic irony, dialogue, diction, and imagery.

**Lesson Focus: Diction**

Follow the link to refresh your memory of the definition of “diction.”

<http://contemporarylit.about.com/cs/literaryterms/g/diction.htm>

Diction can be a hard literary device to understand, much less use. Take the online “diction test” and see how well you are at using the correct words.

<http://www.okcupid.com/tests/take?testid=15277545753499800202>

How did you do?

This test was very hard so don't be discouraged if you don't do well. Truly, we may never know the “correct” answers. However, think about the following questions and their relationship to diction:

**Independent Practice:**

**For each of the following sentences, pick the word that BEST completes the sentence. Choose the word that is the most descriptive, but doesn't change the meaning of the rest of the sentence.**

- As soon as I heard the sirens, I \_\_\_\_\_ out the door to see what had happened.
  - Walked
  - Ran
  - Flew
  - Looked
- To be honest, the story about butterflies was a little \_\_\_\_\_; I mean, half the people were asleep by the end.
  - Long
  - Boring
  - Tiresome
  - Stupid
- Recycling is a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ part of preserving the planet's resources.
  - Essential
  - Important
  - Big
  - Large
- The news talked about nothing for weeks but Britney Spears' \_\_\_\_\_ decision to shave her head.
  - Interesting
  - Strange
  - Outrageous
  - Surprising

5. I found \_\_\_\_\_ books on your topic. I can't believe you didn't find any.
- A. Bunch of
  - B. Many
  - C. A pile of
  - D. Numerous
6. Can someone suggest to me a place where I can quickly \_\_\_\_\_ my jewelry where it will be safe?
- A. Stash
  - B. Place
  - C. Stick
  - D. Hide
7. I found the essay to be the most \_\_\_\_\_ part of the exam- it took forever and I still feel shaky about it.
- A. Intimidating
  - B. Time-consuming
  - C. Difficult
  - D. None of these
8. The cat \_\_\_\_\_ from the floor to the window sill, which was six feet off the ground.
- A. Jumped
  - B. Leaped
  - C. Climbed
  - D. Stepped

### Closure

- 1) C
- 2) C
- 3) A
- 4) C
- 5) D
- 6) A
- 7) A
- 8) B

For each question that you missed, look at the correct response and think about why that response was the correct one. What element of the question did you miss when you answered incorrectly? How might you avoid making that same mistake in the future? If you did not miss any, congratulations! If you did miss a few, use the following tips when answering questions like these in the future:

- 1. Read the question completely and all answers completely.** Sometimes you can answer incorrectly just because you didn't pay close attention to what the question was asking you for, or because you missed a detail in one of the responses. Take your time.
- 2. Pay very close attention to questions that ask for the BEST or the MOST LIKELY answer.** In these questions, the test will often trick you because more than one answer could be correct. What you have to do in these circumstances is think which one is the best.