WORDS TO KNOW

technical

connotations

figurative

Lesson 27

DETERMINE FIGURATIVE, CONNOTATIVE, AND TECHNICAL MEANINGS ELAGSE7RI4

INTRODUCTION

Real-World Connection

MUSIC CONNECTION

Maya, reporter for the school's newspaper, is writing a review of a classmate's drum solo for the next school paper. Maya writes, "As the drummer hit the metal disc, a screeching sound arose that sounded like a beautiful melody to my ears." Maya's editor returns the article with many notes. She is using words with negative associations to describe a pleasant experience. She does not use specific words that relate to drumming. How can Maya revise her writing so that it is clearer? We'll practice the skills in the **Guided Practice** and **Independent Practice** and revisit Maya and her drums at the end of the lesson!

What I Am Going to Learn

- How understanding words that relate to a specific subject can help you understand that subject better
- How some words have associations beyond their dictionary definition and how these associations can help us understand the context of the text better
- How words can be used in a certain way to create mental pictures for readers

What I May Already Know ELAGSE5RI4

- I know words that have special meanings in different subject areas.
- I know words that generally improve my vocabulary.
- I know figurative meanings of words, including similes and metaphors.

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Vocabulary in Action

As you read, you will come across words that are used in a variety of ways:

- **Technical** words are words that relate to a specific subject. Knowing the meaning of technical words may help you understand a particular subject better.
- **Connotations** are added associations beyond the dictionary definition of a word. A connotation can be positive, negative, or neutral.
- **Figurative** meanings of words and phrases create mental pictures for readers. Examples:
  - Similes compare things using the words *like* or *as*.
  - Metaphors also compare things, but without using like or as.
  - Hyperbole is an exaggeration.
  - Personification is when the writer gives human characteristics to nonhuman things.

GUIDED INSTRUCTION

Maya researched to learn about more terms related to drumming and found an article about the history of drums. Underline technical words, circle words with positive or negative connotations, and highlight figurative language.

Where Did the Drum Set Come From?

Before the invention of the drum set, the process of creating a full, rich sound was inefficient. Bands had to use multiple drummers to get the sound it craved. Each drummer played a different type of drum. For example, one would play the snare drum, while another would play the bass. The drummers combined to create rhythms as steady as a heartbeat.

In the early 20th century, the invention of the drum set transformed this, allowing drummers to play multiple instruments at the same time. First, a stand was invented to hold the drums, and a bass drum pedal was created to allow drummers to play a drum rhythm using their feet. Later, cymbals were added, which could also be played by tapping the feet on a pedal. Over the 20th century, drum sets were improved and changed. Instead of just using drumsticks, wire brushes could also be used to play the drums and cymbals.

Today, with the combination of instruments available in a drum set, a single drummer can create a wide variety of sounds and rhythms.

THINK ABOUT IT

The author says drumming before the drum set invention was *inefficient*. Does *inefficient* have a positive or negative connotation? Look at the clues in the text. Is the process before the drum set easy or difficult?

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Complete the chart by listing the words and phrases you found in the passage, the type of meaning, and the meaning or connotation.

MEANING OR CONNOTATION	TYPE OF MEANING	WORD OR PHRASE
negative	connotative	inefficient

THINK ABOUT IT

Ask yourself, "How does the content of the text help you figure out the word's technical meaning?"

Part A

What is the technical meaning of bass as it is used in paragraph 1?

Ⓐ a type of fish that drummers like to eat

Ⓑ the lowest note that a drummer can play

Ⓒ the very low singing voice of a drummer

Ⓓ a type of drum that is played with the feet

HINT, HINT

Which sentence talks about the bass drum?

Part B

Underline the sentence in paragraph 2 that BEST supports the answer to Part A.

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How Am I Doing?

What questions do you have?

Can you write an example of something you learned?

How do you and your friends use figurative meanings, technical words, or connotations in your everyday conversations?

SKETCH IT

In the margin below, draw an example of something you learned.

Color in the traffic signal that shows how you are doing with the skill.

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INDEPENDENT PRACTICE

Read the article. Then answer the questions that follow.

From Ska to Soca and Rap to Reggae: The Music of Jamaica

by Ann Stalcup | Genre: Magazine Article

HINT, HINT

On a test, words that are tested will often be underlined or bold in the passage. Pay attention to these words. Look for clues that help you understand their meaning.

Jamaica is an island in the West Indies, south of Cuba. In Jamaica, music is an important part of everyday life. This article tells about four different styles of popular Jamaican music.

1 Music is everywhere in Jamaica. It pours out of buses, cars, taxis, and stores. In small towns and villages, loudspeakers atop tall poles blast out the latest craze. Even on remote country roads where the air is silent except for birds singing, people walk as if they are moving to music.

2 Jamaican music has its roots in the folk music brought by African slaves in the 1700s. Although slave owners tried hard to stamp out the African culture, traditional music survived. The burru, or "talking drums," passed information from one plantation to the next, just as they had passed information from village to village in Africa. In the sugar cane fields, where singing helped distract workers from the pain of backbreaking labor, folk songs developed. The songs described how hard life and working conditions were for the Africans in their new land.

3 Although the old songs were kept alive, European influences gradually entered the music. European musical instruments such as fifes, flutes, horns, and fiddles were introduced. But through it all, Jamaicans retained unique sounds and styles of their own, styles that became popular the world over.

4 During the last 250 years, one style of music has developed after another. As they've developed, the styles have shared one thing in common. Each tells a story. Many songs offer social commentary on issues about which Jamaicans, especially the poor, feel strongly.

5 Africans first brought mento to Jamaica in the 1700s. It reached the height of its popularity in the 1950s when it changed somewhat and became ska. Mento involved singing, dancing, and drumming. In the late 1800s, it even incorporated influences from the French quadrille and the English Maypole Dance. Initially, its sound was slow and rhythmic, but the music became much faster later in its history. Added to the mix were Cuban musical instruments such as guitars, banjos, shakers, and a rumba box. (This instrument is similar to the African thumb piano.)

6 Calypso was at its most popular in the 1950s and early 1960s. Like mento, every song tells a story. Often, the stories describe work or romance. Calypso is associated with Jamaica because Jamaican-born singer Harry Belafonte introduced it to the world with two songs in particular—"Jamaica Farewell" and "The Banana Boat Song." Although calypso is heard frequently in Jamaica, the style, and its steel drums, belong to the Caribbean island of Trinidad.

7 Ska, the music with roots in the mento style of the 1950s, developed from the boogie-woogie and rhythm and blues that were popular in the United States. Uniquely Jamaican, it uses a horn and involves dancing at double the normal speed. Since most ska were social protest songs, it was a musical style popular with the poorest members of Jamaica's population. Bob Marley was famous for ska, but he later moved to reggae, making it world-famous. Rock steady is ska slowed down to half speed, and is much more melodic. Though popular when it was first introduced, it lasted only four years—from 1966 to 1970.

8 Reggae developed from both mento and calypso. It was born in the poorest areas of Kingston, Jamaica's capital. Marley became such a famous reggae performer that he brought the world's attention to Jamaica and its music. Kingston earned the nickname, "Nashville of the Third World." Reggae's lyrics tell stories that are religious, social, or political. Some songs are filled with anger and violence. Jamaicans say that the word "reggae" means "comin' from de people."

9 Reggae is believed to have influenced the music of many world-famous musicians, such as the Rolling Stones, Stevie Wonder, and Elton John. Its rhythms and sounds still have their roots in the singing, dancing, and drumming of its performers' African ancestors. Unfortunately, Marley died in 1981 while still a young man. However, his contributions to world music are legendary and he will not be forgotten. Some of his children, such as Ziggy Marley, are keeping their father's musical tradition alive.

10 Soca has been popular on the island for the past 25 years. Its origins lie in Trinidad. Fast-paced, its sounds are a mix of both soul and calypso. Like every other form of Jamaican music, it tells a story, one that describes the deepest feelings and concerns of the Jamaican people. However, the songs are about less serious issues than the earlier styles of music. Some say that reggae makes you think, whereas soca makes you dance.

READING NOTES

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DETERMINE FIGURATIVE, CONNOTATIVE, AND TECHNICAL MEANINGS Lesson 27

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The following question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

1. Part A

Which BEST describes the burru music's function in the African culture?

Ⓐ method of entertainment
Ⓑ communication device
Ⓒ form of protest
Ⓓ religious expression

Part B

Cite evidence from the text that supports your response about the function of burru music in African culture in Part A.

The following question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

2. Part A

What is the connotative meaning of the word backbreaking in paragraph 2?

Ⓐ harmful
Ⓑ boring
Ⓒ distracting
Ⓓ difficult

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Part B

Which sentence from paragraph 2 BEST supports the answer to Part A?

Ⓐ "Jamaican music has its roots in the folk music brought by African slaves in the 1700s."
Ⓑ "Although slave owners tried hard to stamp out the African culture, traditional music survived."
Ⓒ "The burru, or 'talking drums,' passed information from one plantation to the next, just as they had passed information from village to village in Africa."
Ⓓ "The songs described how hard life and working conditions were for the Africans in their new land."

3.

Which example of figurative language should the writer use to BEST describe the unique sounds discussed in paragraph 3?

Ⓐ as new as a baby
Ⓑ as angry as a hornet
Ⓒ as loud as a thunderstorm
Ⓓ as individual as a snowflake

The following question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

4. Part A

What is the meaning of the technical word quadrille as it is used in paragraph 5?

Ⓐ a type of song
Ⓑ a type of dance
Ⓒ a type of drum
Ⓓ a type of guitar

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Part B

Which two details from paragraph 5 BEST help the reader understand the technical meaning of quadrille in Part A?

- Ⓐ "Africans first brought mento to Jamaica in the 1700s."
- Ⓑ "…reached the height of its popularity in the 1950s…"
- Ⓒ "…involved singing, dancing, and drumming…"
- Ⓓ "…and the English Maypole Dance."
- Ⓔ "Added to the mix were Cuban musical instruments…"
- Ⓕ "…similar to the African thumb piano."

5. Read paragraphs 5-7. Write the technical word next to each phrase it describes.

music from Africa popular in Jamaica in the 1950s that involved singing, dancing, and drumming	
music unique to Jamaica that developed from boogie-woogie and rhythm and blues	
music popular in Jamaica in the 1950s and 1960s that tells a story, usually about work or romance	

6. What connotative meaning does the word legendary have in paragraph 9, and what does it describe?

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EXIT TICKET

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Now that you've mastered the art of using figurative, connotative, and technical language, let's revisit the Real-World Connection. Imagine you attended the drum performance with Maya. Revise Maya's original sentence for her article using appropriate technical terms, connotations, and figurative language. Write a paragraph that incorporates the revised sentence and describes the drum solo performance Maya observed. Be sure to use what you learned about musical terms in your paragraph.

MAYA

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