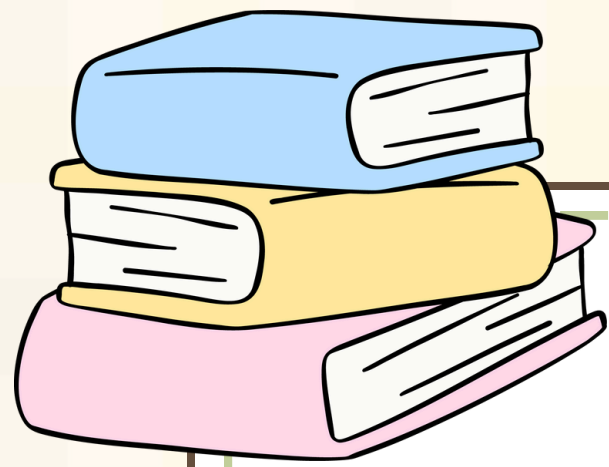


UNDERSTANDING
CONTEXT CLUES &
CONNOTATION THROUGH
POETRY



WHAT ARE CONNOTATIVE AND DENOTATIVE MEANINGS?

Denotative meaning: The literal or dictionary definition

Connotative meaning: The suggested or associated meaning

Example: "Home"

- Denotative: A place where one lives
- Connotative: Warmth, comfort, family, safety





INTRODUCTION TO "SLAM, DUNK & HOOK"

- Poem by Yusef Komunyakaa
- Basketball-themed poetry
- Published in 1991
- Combines sports imagery with deeper meanings
- Perfect for exploring connotative meanings





CONTEXT CLUES IN POETRY

Types of context clues:

 Synonyms

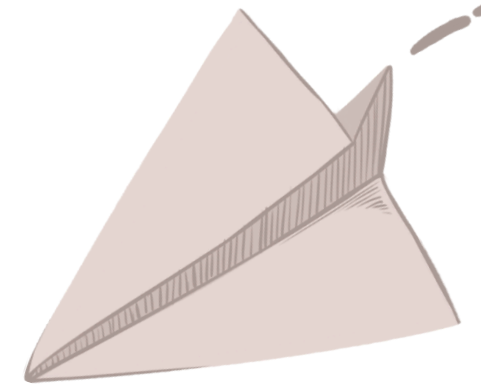
 Antonyms

 Examples

 Definition words

 Surrounding words

- How they help us understand unfamiliar words
- Finding meaning through basketball terminology





ANALYZING THE TITLE: "SLAM, DUNK & HOOK"

Denotative meanings:

- Slam: To shut forcefully
- Dunk: To submerge
- Hook: A curved piece of metal

Connotative meanings in basketball:

- Slam: Power, dominance
- Dunk: Victory, achievement
- Hook: Skill, precision



FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN THE POEM

Examples from the text:

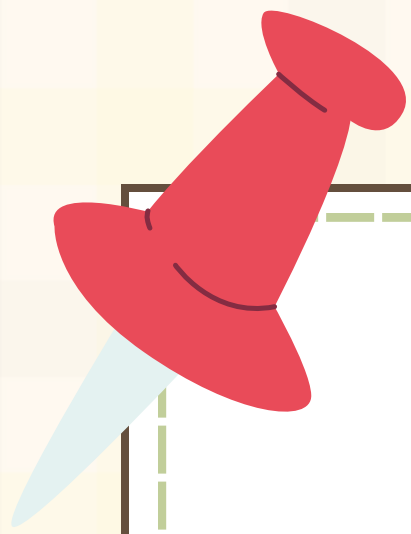
- "Fast breaks, like Mercury"
- "Muscles were a bright motor"
- How metaphors create deeper meaning
- Connection to basketball and life



WORD RELATIONSHIPS

- Basketball terminology network:
- Court → game → players → score
- Related words and associations
- How words build upon each other
- Creating mental connections





BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE APPLICATION



- Understanding basketball basics
- Cultural context of the game
- How sports metaphors work
- Connecting to personal experience
- Using prior knowledge to interpret meaning

