

Word Feelings: Connotation

6th Grade • ELA

Level 3 • Challenge: same facts, different feelings

Name _____

Date _____

Two visitors wrote reviews of the same festival. Read both, then answer the questions.

Review A. The Maple Hollow Harvest Festival was bustling with families on Saturday. The aroma of cinnamon drifted from the vintage cider barn, and children giggled as they wandered through the winding corn maze. Tickets were a bargain, and the cozy hay-ride wagons rolled along at a relaxed pace.

Review B. The Maple Hollow Harvest Festival was mobbed with families on Saturday. An overpowering smell of cinnamon hung over the run-down cider barn, and children shrieked as they got lost in the confusing corn maze. Tickets were cheap, and it showed. The cramped hay-ride wagons crawled along at a sluggish pace.

- Both reviewers describe the same crowd. What is the **denotation** of *bustling* and *mobbed*? How are their **connotations** different?

- Find three underlined words in Review A. Write the word in Review B that replaces each one.

- Describe the **tone** of each review in one or two words. Which words create that tone?

- Rewrite this sentence from Review B so it is **neutral**: "The cramped hay-ride wagons crawled along at a sluggish pace."

Safari Challenge

Write two sentences about the same fall event: one that makes readers want to go, and one that warns them away. Use the same facts in both.



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Level 3 • Answer Key (sample answers)

1. Both mean the place was full of people (denotation). *Bustling* sounds busy and cheerful (positive); *mobbed* sounds crowded and unpleasant (negative).
 2. Any three: bustling → mobbed; aroma → overpowering smell; drifted → hung; vintage → run-down; giggled → shrieked; wandered → got lost; winding → confusing; bargain → cheap; cozy → cramped; relaxed → sluggish.
 3. Review A: cheerful, enthusiastic (bustling, giggled, bargain, cozy). Review B: critical, disappointed (mobbed, shrieked, run-down, sluggish).
 4. Sample: "The small hay-ride wagons moved along slowly."
- Safari Challenge:** Answers will vary. Check that both sentences share the same facts and that the word choices create opposite feelings.





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