
VISUAL THESAURUS LESSON PLANS **STUDENT WORKBOOK**

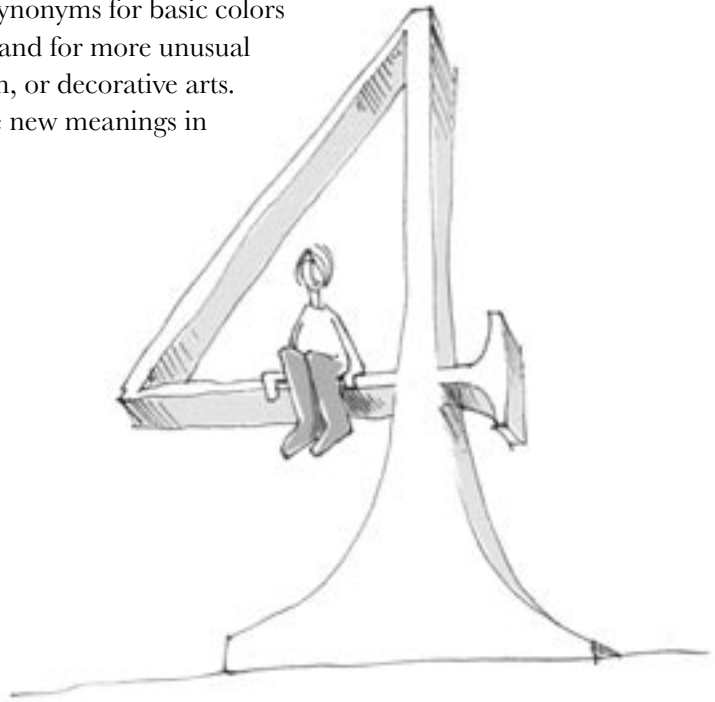


LESSON 4:

EXPLORING COLOR VOCABULARY: SHADE, METAPHOR AND WIDER LITERARY AND CULTURAL MEANINGS**OBJECTIVE:**

Color words and metaphors are used to express many things. In addition to describing the color itself and its related shades, color words are often used to express feelings and images that are only partly related to color. Color words can also take on social and cultural meanings if they are used to describe a person's appearance, emotions, or actions. A broader understanding of basic color words can improve your descriptive writing, as well as deepen your understanding of literary and cultural references to color.

In this lesson, you will explore synonyms for basic colors (primary, secondary, and tones) and for more unusual color words found in art, fashion, or decorative arts. Then you will incorporate these new meanings in a creative writing piece.



PART 1: INTRODUCTION

- ❶ Use each of the primary colors (red, blue, yellow), secondary colors (green, orange, purple), and tone colors (black, white) and type them each into the VT search box.
- ❷ What kinds of meanings do you get? Divide the meanings into groups including (but not limited to) synonyms for the color itself and other kinds of metaphorical or figurative meanings.

**Red:**

Synonyms for the Color:

Other Kinds of Meanings for Red:

Meaning: Words:

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Blue:

Synonyms for the Color:

Other Kinds of Meanings for Blue:

Meaning: Words:

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Yellow:

Synonyms for the Color:

Other Kinds of Meanings for Yellow:

Meaning: Words:

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Green:

Synonyms for the Color:

Other Kinds of Meanings for Green:

Meaning: Words:

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Orange:

Synonyms for the Color:

Other Kinds of Meanings for Orange:

Meaning: Words:

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Purple:

Synonyms for the Color:

Other Kinds of Meanings for Purple:

Meaning: Words:

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Black:

Synonyms for the Color:

Other Kinds of Meanings for Black:

Meaning: Words:

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White:

Synonyms for the Color:

Other Kinds of Meanings for White:

Meaning: Words:

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- 3 Now, using a color wheel, a fashion catalog or decorating magazine, or a Crayola or similar box of crayons as a guide, choose 5 unusual color names and explore them using the Visual Thesaurus. What kinds of meanings do you get this time?

Color Word:

Synonyms/Meanings:

Color Word:

Synonyms/Meanings:

Color Word:

Synonyms/Meanings:

Color Word:

Synonyms/Meanings:

Color Word:

Synonyms/Meanings:

Is there any difference between the meanings of these unusual words and the basic colors?
Why do you think so?

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PART 2: NEXT STEPS

- 1 Describe a picture or scene using one or more of the color terms and the related words and ideas you found. (Feel free to use both literal and figurative meanings of the color words.)



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PART 3: CHALLENGE

- 1 Write an essay about the social, cultural or literary meanings of one of the color words you explored. Have you ever read, seen, or heard this color word used in a way that bothered you? Explain your feelings or reactions to the way the color word can be used, either positively or negatively.

A cartoon character wearing a helmet and holding a sign that says "CHALLENGE!!". The character is standing on the right side of the page, and the sign is held up to the right. The rest of the page is blank with horizontal dotted lines.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.