



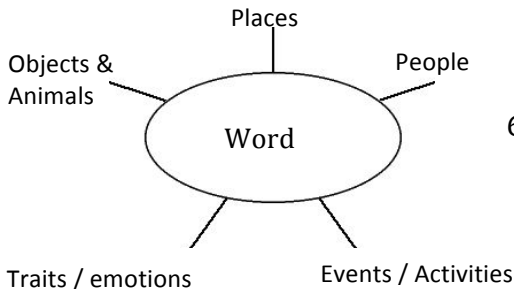
Steps to Close Reading

Understanding a poem or passage in literature requires **multiple readings** and close study to discover the many layers of meaning. It's like looking at the text through a magnifying glass the same way a detective does in search of small clues for meaning. Here are the steps you take.

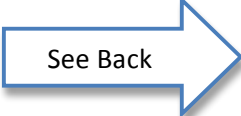
- Context** (if the passage is part of a longer text)
 - Read several pages before the scene begins and identify the speaker, setting & situation (what has just occurred).
- Box names** and references to people and **label** who they are and what is known about them especially **the speaker**. This includes pronouns like I, we, they, him/her, us, them, etc. Remember in poetry the speaker is a fictional voice or character the author creates.
- Definitions:** circle and write down the definitions of at least 2 words you don't know **or** words that are interesting and seem important.
- Summary:** Divide the passage /poem into smaller chunks and in the margins, write notes about what each is about THEN use those notes to write a one-sentence summary that describes what occurs in the beginning, middle and end of the text.

5. Identify lines with Stylistic Devices

Label each and explain the stylistic device using the  G-9 sentence frames.



- Connotations:** Choose 3 key words in the text connected to the stylistic devices and brainstorm people, objects, places, events, traits & emotions in relationship to the text.



7. Tone:

- What is the speaker or author's attitude about the topic(s) he/she is writing about?
- Note where any shifts or changes in the tone occur using an **ARROW**.



- Topics:** name 3 major topics the text is MOSTLY about (ex: friendship, education, injustice, etc.).



- Theme** – What message is being suggested about people & life outside the text?
*TIP: Look for a connection between two or more of the topics you identified above

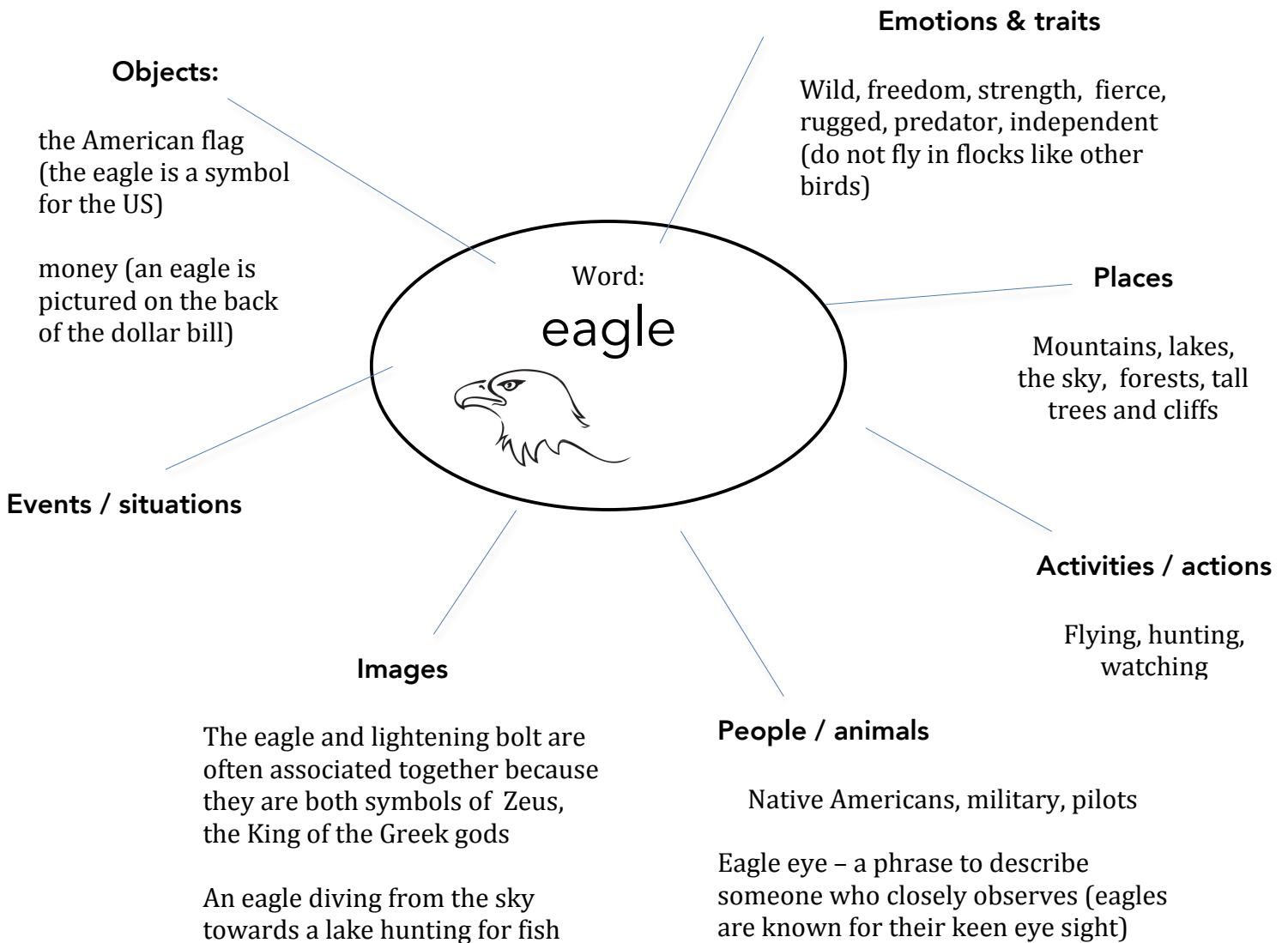


- Highlight the lines with stylistic devices that most support or contribute to the theme.

Connotation vs. Denotation

Toolkit# _____

Connotations: thoughts and images that are associated with a particular word; what comes to mind when you think of a word (for MOST people).



Denotation: the dictionary definition of the word

(noun) a large bird of prey with a massive hooked beak and long broad wings, known for its keen sight and powerful soaring flight.

Synonyms: Words with similar meanings

Bald Eagle, bird