

Diction and Mood (review)

LEARNING TARGET:

ANALYZE how diction (specific word choices) impact the text and create a certain mood.

Mood

The emotion a work embodies.

“Here’s much to do with hate, but more with love” (*Romeo & Juliet*, Shakespeare)

- The diction sets up a romantic, yet somber mood for the play.
- In your **commentary** explain what **specific words** help to do this.
- Then provide additional context from the play to explain the significance

Mood & Diction –

performance of understanding

Mood and Diction (word choice) often go hand in hand.

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness. it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair.”

Dickens uses contrasts to show how **conflicted** the characters were. What specific words (**diction**) help create the **conflicted mood** of this text?

Performance of Understanding

#2 - This time YOU determine the mood (not me) as well as identify the significant diction.

What is the mood of this poem?

How does the DICTION of the poem on the next slide create the mood?

Hint: look for STRONG EMOTIONAL words
Also look for patterns of words

Mood - what is the mood and what words create it?

I have been one acquainted with the night.
I have walked out in rain -- and back in rain.
I have out walked the furthest city light.
I have looked down the saddest city lane.
I have passed by the watchman on his beat
And dropped my eyes, unwilling to explain.
I have stood still and stopped the sound of feet
When far away an interrupted cry
Came over houses from another street,
But not to call me back or say good-bye;
And further still at an unearthly height,
A luminary clock against the sky
Proclaimed the time was neither wrong nor right.
I have been one acquainted with the night.

- Acquainted With The Night, *Robert Frost*

Strong and Weak Examples of Diction Analysis

I have been one acquainted with the night.
I have walked out in rain -- and back in rain.
I have out walked the furthest city **light**.
I have looked down the saddest city lane.
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A **luminary clock** against the sky
Proclaimed the time was neither wrong nor **right**.
I have been one acquainted with the night.

GOOD EXAMPLE: There are some positive words here such as **light and right** which shows some hope or triumph in a text that is **overall sad** as evidenced by words such as **night, rain, saddest, cry, and good bye**.

BAD EXAMPLE The speaker clearly is struggling emotionally and is upset since he keeps saying "I have been acquainted with the night." (**focusing on lines instead of individual words**)

Look for the **strongest patterns**. Also REFERENCE **SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL word choices** since it is a **DICTION** essay instead of focusing on quotes as a whole.

- Acquainted With The Night, *Robert Frost*

Need More Help?

SEE **mentor/sample** text on the back of your DICTION MINI-ESSAY project sheet.