Warm-Up
Everyday Heroes: Poems by Nikki Giovanni

Lesson Question

Lesson Goals

**Read** the poems “A Poem for My Librarian, Mrs. Long” and “My First Memory (of Librarians)” by Nikki Giovanni.

**Distinguish** between explicit and implicit information.

**Draw conclusions** about the speaker’s viewpoint using details.

**Consider** how allusion influence a poem.

Words to Know

*Fill in this table as you work through the lesson. You may also use the glossary to help you.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>explicit</td>
<td>fully shown or expressed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>implicit</td>
<td>or hinted at but not actually expressed in words</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>allusion</td>
<td>in a text to a well-known text, person, event, or place</td>
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<tr>
<td>speaker</td>
<td>the narrative of a poem</td>
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<tr>
<td>viewpoint</td>
<td>the way a person or thinks about something</td>
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Filling in the Details

Have you ever overheard part of a conversation?

• You can take what you **explicitly** hear and fill in the gaps to make an  

  _______ about what you _______.
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Nikki Giovanni (b. 1943)

- Was born in Knoxville, Tennessee
- Graduated from Fisk University, the University of Pennsylvania, and Columbia University
- Was involved in the movement
- Published her first book of poetry in
- Has written more than thirty books
- Is currently an professor at Virginia Tech

Explicit Details

To identify explicit details:

- Look for, clearly stated details that describe something.
- Remember that explicit details can include pictures, conversations, statistics, or facts.
- Recall that they can relate to the plot, setting, character, or of a poem or story.
Part 1

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Finding Explicit Details

Underline the explicit details in the passage.

This is my first memory:
A big room with heavy wooden tables that sat on a creaky wood floor
A line of green shades – bankers’ lights – down the center
Heavy oak chairs that were too low or maybe I was simply too short
For me to sit in and read
So my first book was always big

“My First Memory (of Librarians),”
Nikki Giovanni

Making Inferences

To identify implicit details and make inferences:

• Read a of a text to find out what the author says directly.

• Think about what else the author means, based on what you already .

• Make connections to put together the explicit meaning and the meaning.

• Make an inference.
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Making Inferences

• Read a section of a text to find out what the author says. Underline the details that the author states directly.

• Think about what else the author believes based on what you already know.

• Make an inference.

Underline the details that the author states directly.

But she nonetheless brought the books
Back and I held them to my chest
Close to my heart

“A Poem For My Librarian, Mrs. Long,”
Nikki Giovanni

Speaker vs. Author

The author is the person who writes a poem.

But she nonetheless brought the books
Back and I held them to my chest
Close to my heart

“A Poem For My Librarian, Mrs. Long,”
Nikki Giovanni
The Speaker’s Viewpoint

The speaker’s viewpoint is how the speaker looks at or about a topic.

- Look for precise, explicit details that clearly describe people or things.
- Look for implicit details to make an when the meaning is not stated explicitly.
- Draw about what you read.
- Use what you already know.

Revealing the Speaker’s Viewpoint

- Look for and details.
- Draw conclusions about the passage.
- Use what you already.
- Decide the speaker’s viewpoint.

Underline the details in the poem that can help identify the speaker’s viewpoint.

This is my first memory:
A big room with heavy wooden tables that sat on a creaky wood floor
A line of green shades – banker’s lights down the center
Heavy oak chairs that were too low or maybe I was simply too short
For me to sit in and read
So my first book was always big

—“My First Memory (of Librarians),”
Nikki Giovanni
Instruction
Part 2

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Allusions

An allusion is a _______ in a text to another well-known text, person, event, or place.

Mrs. Long asking what are you looking for today
When I wanted Leaves of Grass or alfred north whitehead
She would go to the big library uptown

- Leaves of Grass
- Alfred North Whitehead

Recognizing Allusions

Underline the allusions to famous jazz musicians in the passage.

There was always the radio which brought us
Songs from wlac in nashville and what we would now call
Easy listening or smooth jazz but when I listened
Late at night with my portable (that I was so proud of)
Tucked under my pillow
I heard nat king cole and matt dennis, june christy and ella fitzgerald
And sometimes sarah vaughan sing black coffee
Which I now drink
It was just called music.

--“A Poem For My Librarian, Mrs. Long,”
Nikki Giovanni
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Lesson Question
How do you draw conclusions about the speaker of a poem based on details the poem presents?

Answer

Use this space to write any questions or thoughts about this lesson.