We Real Cool

By Gwendolyn Brooks

The Pool Players.
        Seven at the Golden Shovel.

            We real cool. We

            Left school. We

            Lurk late. We

            Strike straight. We

            Sing sin. We

            Thin gin. We

            Jazz June.

            Die soon.

[BELOW ARE MY ZOOM CLASS NOTES…THIS IS NOT HOW A FORMAL DRAFT SHOULD LOOK]

Enjambment; Alliteration; Assonance; Consonance; formal verse; denotation-connotation

Lurk: await in ambush

Late: 5 denotative definitions: after the proper time; protracted; near the end of the day; most recent; former. CONNOTATIONS: Frustration, patience, calm, giving up, danger, excitement,

We: plural of I; used to denote others including the self; used to denote people in general; used to denote a specific group, like a political party or professional group. CONNOTATION: friends, family, comfortable,

Strike: Denotation: hit, two objects hitting; to force to collide; a sound; an idea occurring to a person. CONNOTATION: Pain, hurt, power, bold, fighting—fear and anger, stopping work???

Straight: Denotation: without a bend; upright as in someone’s shoulders; honest; reliable; a proper condition; informal: heterosexual. CONNOTATIONS: concentration, Morals, pure, strong or tall or forceful, question their honesty? Or, are they being very honest in their desires to

**Students should think about the words in context as they explore the various denotations and connotations**

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Possible Terms that might help:

1--Stanza

2--Metaphor

3--Tenor (related to metaphor)

4--Vehicle (related to metaphor)

5--Simile

6--Personification

7--Symbol

8--Enjambment

9--Irony

10--Paradox

11—Alliteration:

12—Assonance:

13—Consonance:

14--Explication

15--Allusion

16--Denotation

17--Connotation

18--Free Verse = a poem that does not rhyme or have a metrical pattern (example: Walt Whitman’s “Manahatta” is free verse

19--Formal Verse = a poem that contains rhymes and/or a repeated metrical pattern or rhythm (example: Robert Frost’s two poems: “Fire and Ice” and “The Road Not Taken”)

20--Blank Verse = a poem that has a repeated rhythm/meter but no rhyme (example: Amy Lowell’s “The Taxi”)