

Francisco R.  
Creative Language Unit 3 of 6

Hi, Francisco! My name is Andie and I will be providing you with feedback on your answers to the creative language unit 3. I look forward to it!

1. This is a great answer. In what ways does it “rattle your brain?” Does it rattle only the writer’s brain, or the reader’s also?
2. Good work, but consider whether the antonyms and synonyms fit the same part of speech as the original word. For example, “power” is a noun, while “weak” and “electric” are adjectives. Words that fit the same part of speech as the original would be the most effective synonyms and antonyms.
3. Be conscious of the meanings associated with your synonyms. For example, how does it change the story’s meaning if his name changes, or if he is eating breakfast instead of lunch? This can happen in more subtle ways, too, like the difference between “eating” and “chewing.” They conjure different meanings in your mind. Replacing words with antonyms is also an interesting writing exercise, but it can also be a source of meaning change. Sometimes changing one word means the whole story changes!
4. This is a great insight into your writing style! Why do you think you prefer simpler phrasing and phrasing that feels more natural? Use this to your advantage – it makes you unique!
5. Great examples of homonyms!
6. Good work finding the differences – sometimes meaning gets blurred when the words are so close together, but you were observant enough to distinguish. You have the eye of a writer!
7. Good word – in fact, this may have more than two meanings.
8. That’s super interesting! Goes to show how meanings can get lost with time.
9. How does Frank effectively convey through language the experience of hearing lies? Why is it so vivid to you? How is Danny’s ineffective language-wise?
10. Great! What is the value of being concise? Is it valuable in all situations or does it depend on what you’re writing?
11. These are wonderful!
  - a. The first paragraph is so funny. A contributing factor in the humor is the use of colloquial language like “pits” and “funk,” especially contrasted with the very literary action of looking out the window pensively.
  - b. Great portrayal of an anti-climactic moment! Think about sentence structure, too – not only can elaborate descriptions be misleading when contrasted with a simple event like being fired, but so can elaborate sentences that build up to grandiosity contrasted with simple sentences.
  - c. These last two have great characterization and voice and could be categorized as either Frank’s or Danny’s. The last one seems more like Danny’s in that your voice is so distinctive and specific, while the one before seems more like Frank’s in that the occupation and the dream life could be metaphors for characterization.
12. Great rhymes! Because poetry is tight on space (oftentimes – it doesn’t have to be) consider the clarity of each line. The meaning of “Inspiration shades of blue” is unclear, although it is beautiful. Is there a way to convey this meaning and beauty at the same

time? With the second one, consider the stress on the syllables, although this is not always a necessary component to rhyming poems. “TO the DENtist I must GO” and “aNOther DAY postPONED” works well enough, but would it work better if the stresses were on the same syllables? The answer could be yes or no.

13. The music in these lines is great! The first couplet has a wonderful matching rhythm – “CLOUDS and MOUNtains” and “RAIN and MUDslides.” The second one makes beautiful use of sounds (internal music) – “dresses” and “singing” both have prominent s sounds, while “green” “trees” and “leaves” all feature the same vowel sound. This ties the words together in an artful way and helps the image and meaning to stick in the reader’s mind. Awesome work!
14. Great! Like I said, be sure to be as clear as you can in the space you have. This doesn’t mean you can’t be metaphorical – just that you need to be absolutely sure your metaphors get across to the reader. The second line is a little ambiguous in meaning due to its awkward phrasing.
15. Make sure to distinguish between prose and poetry – prose is really any kind of writing that isn’t poetry, and is usually composed of complete sentences.
16. Interesting! The decision to incorporate new sounds at the end of the second line (“I can’t out run it”) could make or break the poem – it could serve as an intentional disruption or an accidental distraction. You can control which it is!
17. A helpful tip for prose as well as for poetry is to include concrete details – specific situations, images, and instances that all contribute to your point. For example, “misery” is an abstract concept not easily visualized, but we all have our own way of envisioning it. What comes to your mind when you think “misery?” What might come to Xavier’s mind? These specific visualizations can be excellent story fodder. The reader will be more convinced if, just like in analytical papers, you can give them specific examples to back up your assertion that Xavier is miserable.
18. This is fantastic and funny. Your last two lines are very clever. Love it!
19. Great job setting the scene for this one! The character’s voice comes out nicely in “can a girl get some quiet time.”
20. Great job! I think it says something about your writing that I instantly knew which subjects each was about without you having to tell me. It would be helpful for clarity’s sake to find spots where one word could make a line a complete sentence. For example, your first line is “My city unlike any other at night,” but if you said “My city is unlike any other at night,” the reader can situate themselves more clearly in the situation and you’ve begun a complete thought, which will also give you more direction when it comes to finishing the poem.
21. Was there a particular one you preferred? Why did you prefer it? Do you feel that your unique writing voice lends itself to one over the other?
22. Good work!
23. Again, good work!
24. Great example.
25. Another thing to consider: many English words have roots in other languages. The plurals in these other languages work differently than English plurals. Sometimes this is the reason for abnormal plural forms of words.

Overall, great work on this unit!