

Color the Connotations Answer Key

Colored Words by Connotation:

- **Positive (Green):** slender, cozy, warm
- **Negative (Red):** shabby, cramped, nosy
- **Neutral (Blue):** small, chatty (can be context-dependent, but here it is neutral to mildly positive)

Sample Reflection (answers may vary):

If the author replaced “slender” with “scrawny” and “cozy” with “cramped,” the café would sound less inviting and more unpleasant. On the other hand, adding words like “bright” or “inviting” would make the setting feel cheerful and welcoming. This shows how connotation changes the reader’s emotional reaction to the same basic description.

Teacher Notes / Guide:

- Some words may lean differently depending on student interpretation (*chatty* can feel friendly or annoying). Allow flexibility if students defend their reasoning.
- This activity works well if students use **colored pencils/highlighters**.
- Extension: Have students write their own short passage using at least **three positive, three negative, and two neutral** words, then swap with a partner to color-code.