English Language Arts 10-2

Unit 2: Comprehend and respond to texts

Voice in the radio line

Reading tone aloud

- Chris is holding a sign beside the orange cones. The radio says: keep your voice low. If the wind moves the cones, stop and reset. Hands off the load.
- The tone is urgent and controlled. Stop and reset demand a fast correction. Keep your voice low refuses panic.
- Diction is those exact words. Shout or run would build a different attitude with the same cones.
- The cones, the wind, and the hands on the load are literal images. You could point at them on the road. Nothing in the line compares them to something else.

The worksite radio
Keep your voice low.

If the wind moves the cones,

stop and reset.

Hands off the load.

Stop and reset, with keep your voice low, make the tone urgent and controlled. The speaker wants calm action, a quiet step.

Hands off the load is a literal image: fingers away from whatever is being carried while the cones are wrong.

Diction and imagery

- Tone is urgent and controlled on this radio, heard in the commands themselves.
- Diction is the chosen words: stop, reset, low, hands off. Swap in yell and the attitude changes.
- Imagery is the picture. These sentences are literal: wind, cones, hands, and load are meant as themselves.
- A figurative statement would compare or stretch a picture, such as a later line that calls wet concrete a mirror. This radio line stays with the cones on the road.

Key terms

tone

The attitude in the words, such as urgent and controlled, heard in what the speaker demands.

diction

The particular words chosen, which carry that attitude.

imagery

Language that gives a picture or a sensation, whether the statement is literal or figurative.

The cones are literal cones

- Orange cones moved by wind is a picture of the road. That is literal imagery.
- Hands off the load lets you see fingers leaving the weight. Also literal.
- If the radio had said the cones were frightened birds, that would be figurative. This line keeps the cones as cones.
- The tone stays urgent and controlled either way. Figurative or literal is about the picture. Tone stays the attitude.

A reading of the radio line

- Tone: urgent and controlled.
- Diction as evidence: stop, reset, keep your voice low, hands off.
- Literal images: wind shifting cones, and hands leaving the load.
- What the line has: plain commands and a speaker who wants calm.

The pool deck line

- A deck speaker says: Walk. The deck is wet past the blue tile. Whistle once, then wait.
- Name the tone and two pieces of diction that build it.
- Describe one image and say whether it is literal or figurative.

Review

- Cover the radio and the pool line.
- The greenhouse note says: Pinch the yellow leaves. Yanking tips the tray.
- Name the tone, cite diction, and say whether the tipping tray is literal or figurative.