LOADED WORDS

Some words may not cause a particular emotional reaction whereas other words with similar meanings may fire up anger, joy, fear, or other emotions. Authors may choose to use the more emotional words to convey a particular tone in their writings, and critical readers need to be aware of this literary device in order to maintain an objective view of the topic and not be subtly swayed by the author’s attitude.

Consider each of the following groups of words and underline the word that suggests a more emotional response.

1. witty, clever, sneaky, astute
2. famous, notorious, prominent, renowned
3. gigantic, big, large, sizable
4. scary, frightening, creepy, bloodcurdling
5. attentive, careful, observant, guarded
6. pretty, gorgeous, lovely, nice-looking
7. exhausted, tired, drowsy, sleepy
8. corrupt, false, untruthful, dishonest
9. honest, truthful, good, blameless
10. immaculate, clean, unsoiled, sanitary
11. funny, hilarious, humorous, amusing
12. upset, terrify, scare, startle
13. dull, boring, mind-numbing, dreary
14. genius, intelligent, bright, smart
15. vicious, mean, hateful, unkind

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