

Word Choice

- Creates a mental picture
 - Showing rather than telling (action verbs)
 - The stream **raced** around the bend. It **tumbled** over rocks and **dove** into the gaps between them.

Word Choice

The stream **raced** around the bend. It **tumbled** over rocks and **dove** into the gaps between them.



Word Choice: Tell vs. Show

Mama was angry.

vs.

Mama's eyes blazed with fury.

Word Choice: Tell vs. Show

There was a lot of food on the table.

VS.

There were whole roasted turkeys oozing with buttery juices, rosy hams, racks of spicy barbecued ribs, and acres of luscious pies and cakes adorned with nuts, sugars, and creams.

Word Choice: Tell vs. Show

The old car was not in good condition and made loud noises as it idled in the driveway.

VS.

The old car wheezed, coughed and sputtered as if it were choking on its own blue smoke.

Word Choice

- **Adjectives** are very descriptive
 - Describe nouns
 - The _____ man was very _____.
 - The hairy man was very hairy.



[Unpacked My Adjectives](#)

Word Choice



- Clichés and slang should be used sparingly or not at all!
 - The weekend was horrible because **it was raining cats and dogs.**
 - It was so hot you could fry an egg.



Word Choice

Good word choice should...

- Be natural
- Catch the reader's eye/ attention
- Be intriguing
- Not have too many big words
 - Not be pretentious
 - (exaggerated, pompous, ostentatious)

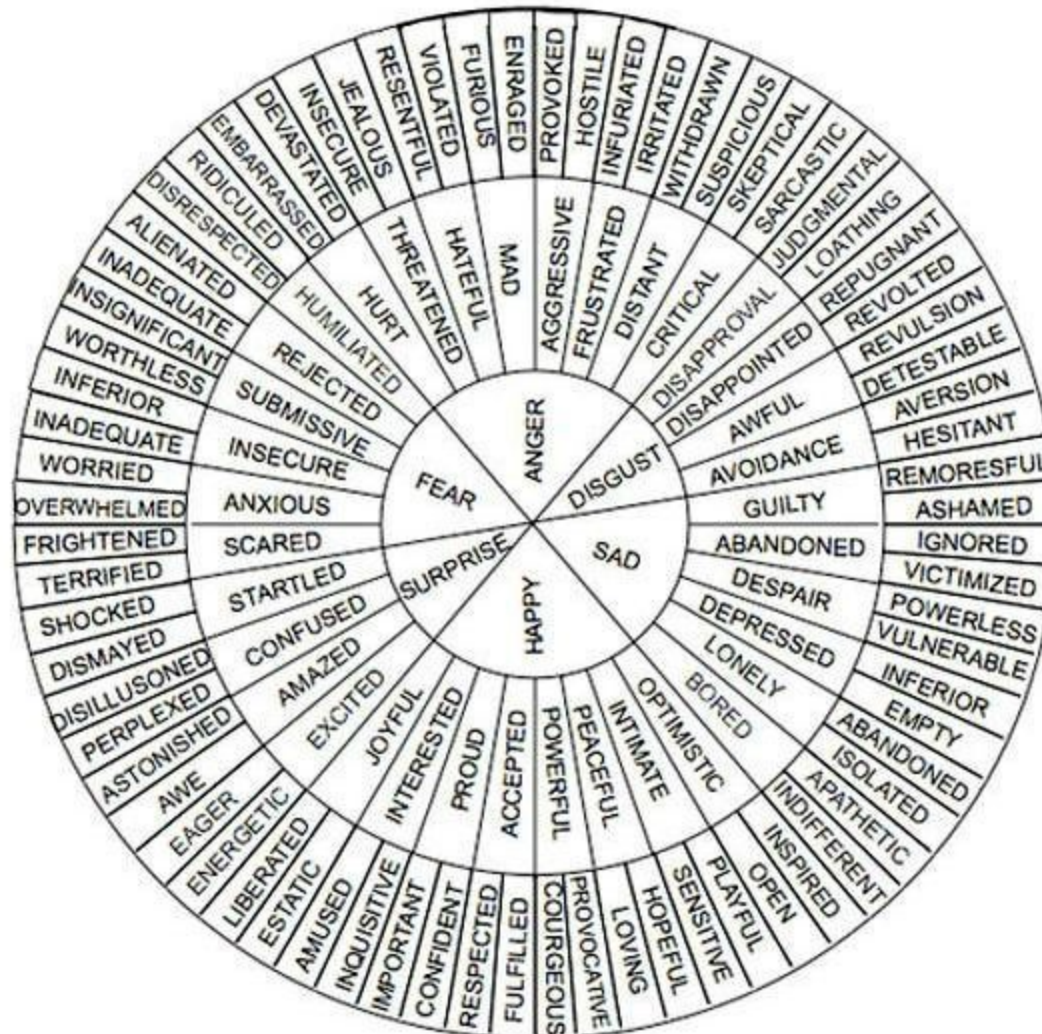
Choosing your words wisely....

Overused
words



- Bad
- Good
- Happy
- Angry
- Sad
- Tall
- Short
- Big
- Small
- Many
- A lot

Wheel of Emotions



Mad

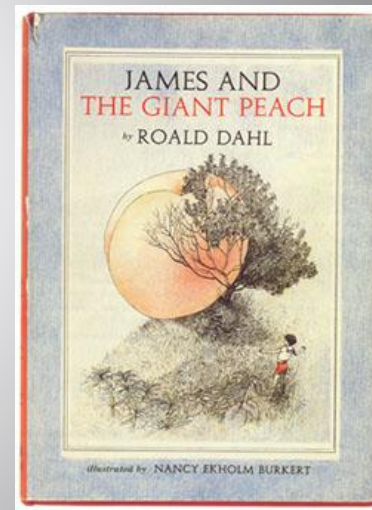
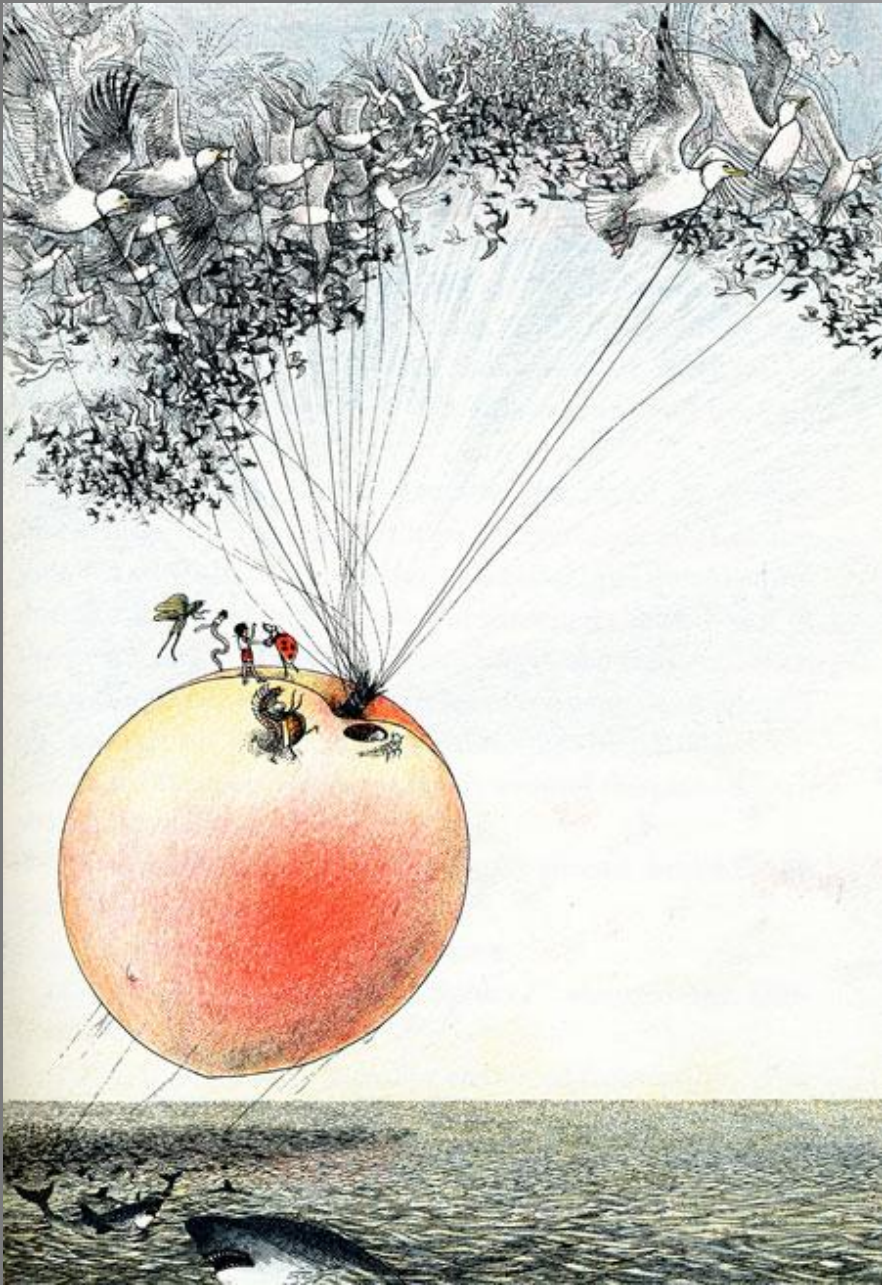


What other word could you use?

Describe these emotions.



James and the Giant Peach



Aunt Sponge was enormously fat and very short. She had small piggy eyes, a sunken mouth, and one of those white flabby faces that looked exactly as though it had been boiled. She was like a great white soggy overboiled cabbage. Aunt Spiker, on the other hand, was lean and tall and bony, and she wore steel-rimmed spectacles that fixed onto the end of her nose with a clip. She had a screeching voice and long wet narrow lips, and whenever she got angry or excited, little flecks of spit would come shooting out of her mouth as she talked. And there they sat, these two ghastly hags, sipping their drinks, and every now and again screaming at James to chop faster and faster. They also talked about themselves, each one saying how beautiful she thought she was. Aunt Sponge had a long-handled mirror on her lap, and she kept picking it up and gazing at her own hideous face.

Identify words and phrases that describe the aunts. How does the author want us to feel about them?