*David and Goliath* Denotation and Connotation Change

Denotation—

Connotation—

1. Word: Cunning

Denotation: having or showing skill in achieving one’s ends by deceit or evasion.

Traditional Connotation: negative--devious, sneaky, scheming, untrustworthy

Sentence in Context: “In legend and song, [the trickster] appears in the form of a seemingly innocuous animal that triumphs over others much larger than himself through **cunning** and guile.” (p . 170)

Changed Connotation: positive—necessary, intelligent, crafty, wit, cleverness, admirable

2. Word: Difficulty

Denotation: a situation that is difficult or dangerous.

Traditional Connotation:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Sentence in Context: “The lesson of the trickster tales is the third desirable **difficulty**: the unexpected freedom that comes from having nothing to lose.” (p. 173)

Changed Connotation:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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3. Word: Master

Denotation: a man who has people working for him, especially servants or slaves.

Traditional Connotation:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Sentence in Context: “…he found ‘pure joy’ in poking fun at the ‘**master**,’ telling him ‘one thing that you knew he wanted to hear and really meaning something else.’” (p. 177)

Changed Connotation:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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4. Word: Right

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Sentence in Context: “But we need to remember that our definition of what is **right** is, as often as not, simply the way that people in positions of privilege close the door on those on the outside.” (p. 190)

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