

# Diction

## Consider:

Her face was white and sharp and slightly gleaming in the candlelight, like **bone**. No hint of pink. And the hair. So fine, so pale, so much, crimped by its plaiting into springy zigzag tresses, **clouding** neck and shoulders, shining metallic in the candlelight, catching a hint, there it was, of green again, from the reflection of a large glazed cache-pot containing a vigorous sword-leafed fern.

— A. S. Byatt, *Possession: A Romance*

## Discuss:

1. When the author describes a face “like *bone*,” what feelings are suggested?
2. How can hair be “*clouding* neck and shoulders”? What picture does this word create for the reader?

## Apply:

Substitute another noun for *bone* in sentence one. Your substitution should change the meaning and feeling of the sentence. Share your sentence with the class and explain how your noun changes the sentence’s connotation and impact.