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About the Cover

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ABOUT THE COVER

Polysemy, the linguistic term for multiple meanings, is common in the English language. Johnson and Johnson (2011) discussed lexical and grammatical polysemy and gave examples such as, “Wally is good at making chips” and “They can fish” (pp. 90-91). Without more clues, we do not know if Wally is skilled in golf, good at making snack/meal chips, or adept at making computer parts. “They” might have knowledge about fishing, might have permission to fish in a certain spot, or they put fish into cans to preserve them.

An anonymous wit wrote that a “garden is a place where the mind goes to seed,” and with the rudbeckia pictured on this issue’s cover, the polysemous statement is apt.

Photo courtesy of Bonnie Johnson

References

Brussell, E. E. (Ed.). (1988, 1970). Webster’s new world dictionary of quotable definitions (2nd ed.). Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Johnson, D. D., & Johnson, B. (2011). Words: The foundation of literacy. Boulder, CO: Westview/Perseus Academic; New York: Taylor & Francis/Routledge.