Denotation vs. Connotation Practice

Directions: Fill in the following blanks using your notes.

- A word's denotation is _________________________________.
  - For example:
  - Snake: a limbless reptile with a long, scaly body
- A word's connotation is _________________________________.
  - For example:
  - "snake in the grass," the biblical serpent, the danger of poisonous snakes, our own fear of snakes, or a malevolent (evil, bad) person might be called "a real snake"

Directions: For the following definition, come up with a word with a positive connotation for each and a negative connotation.

1. not as tall as most
   - positive connotation: __________
   - negative connotation: __________

2. careful with money
   - positive connotation: __________
   - negative connotation: __________

3. wanting to know
   - positive connotation: __________
   - negative connotation: __________

Directions: Answer the following questions.

1. Describe the difference between these words: house; home.

2. Write all of the words and phrases that you associate with Thanksgiving in the order you think of them.
Directions: For each pair of words, circle the word with the positive connotation.
1. gaze; stare
2. brainwash; persuade
3. delayed; tardy
4. lazily; leisurely
5. demand; request

Directions: For each question circle the word with the negative connotation.
1. We bought _____ souvenirs at the amusement park.
   a) cheap
   b) inexpensive

2. I ate a _____ sandwich.
   a) soggy
   b) moist

3. Mike _____ us to go to the funny house.
   a) nagged
   b) reminded

4. I didn't like the _____ on the jester's face.
   a) smirk
   b) grin

5. It made me feel _____.
   a) uneasy
   b) frightened