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# Here's an Instant Activity for September 19, 2005



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## STRATEGY FOR SPELLING SUCCESS

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For most learners, spelling well doesn't just happen. It is the result of a conscientious spelling and word-skill curriculum that:

1. provides a menu of skill-building activities that range in sophistication to teach critical concepts at a student's own level,
2. uses assessment to gather information to target word study to the specific words each student has not learned from among all previously introduced words in the program, as well as to identify skills not yet mastered,
3. equips teachers with guidelines for spelling expectations in everyday writing that increase as students develop as writers, making the classroom a rehearsal for real-world writing, and
4. proposes multiple opportunities to engage parents in the acquisition of spelling skills with their child.

This Instant Activity helps teachers achieve item number 1 above—and item number 4, if the activity is assigned as homework.



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## LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

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Approximately Grade 2



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## PURPOSE

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To familiarize students with similes and show them how they can use similes to enhance their written descriptions.

Skills: written expression, vocabulary development, simile collection and use, classic literature



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## SUGGESTED USE

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Use this Instant Activity with the Level 2 Sourcebook (2nd or 3rd Edition), Unit 7, and the Level 2 Core Word Activity Card for *like* (#66).



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## TEACHING DIRECTIONS

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Tell students that you are going to read to them a story about a dragon.

Write on the chalkboard:

A dreadful dragon that—  
looks like a great hill,  
has wings that stretch out like sails,  
roars like a raging sea in a winter storm,  
and has a body like a wide devouring oven that sends flames of fire.

Underline *like* in each phrase, and point out how the author uses the word *like* to describe this frightful dragon by comparing it to something we know. Discuss how these descriptive phrases help the reader create a picture of the dragon in his or her mind's eye.

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Read the Caldecott Medal winner, *Saint George and the Dragon* by Margaret Hodges and illustrated by Trina Schart Hyman. Ask students to listen for more “descriptive phrases” as you read. Guide students to identify descriptive phrases that begin with the word *like*, and introduce these phrases as similes. Note that the word *as* is also used in similes.

After discussing the story, have students identify more similes and write them on the chalkboard (e.g., as green as grass, as hot as fire, like sparkling stars, like soft clouds).

Next, print the Instant Activity and distribute a copy to each student. Discuss the activity to ensure that students know what is expected. Then ask students to complete the activity at home or at school.



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#### FOLLOW-UP

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Ask students to be on the lookout with “eyes as sharp as tacks” for more examples of similes as they read. Have them report their findings to the class.



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#### FOR MORE

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For more activities to teach all the essential skills and concepts, and to develop a total spelling and language-related program, use the Sourcebook for Teaching Spelling and Word Skills for your grade level (grades 1–8). Extend practice and word exploration with the optional student Practice Books for Learning Spelling and Word Skills (grades 1–6), appropriate for use with both the 2nd and 3rd Edition Sourcebooks. Each Practice Book contains correlated activities for selected lessons from every Sourcebook unit, a proofreading/editing exercise for each unit, and pages in the back for students to record their Spelling Words for study.

Further extend Sourcebook concepts and skills with Word-Wise Sourcebook One for first and second grade, the Level 2 Core Word Activity Cards, and the Level 2 Word Skills in Rhythm and Rhyme CD-ROM/Activity Master Sourcebook.

**To learn about the Sourcebook Series for Teaching Spelling and Word Skills:**

Request our free Overview Video (available in DVD and VHS formats) online at [www.sittonspelling.com](http://www.sittonspelling.com) or by calling 888-WE-SPELL (888-937-7355).

Sign up to receive Rebecca Sitton’s complimentary quarterly e-newsletter at [www.sittonspelling.com](http://www.sittonspelling.com).

**To learn how to use the Sourcebook Series for Teaching Spelling and Word Skills:**

1. Attend a seminar that explains and demonstrates lessons that reflect the Sourcebook methodology. For more information, visit [www.sittonspelling.com](http://www.sittonspelling.com). Click on the Training tab at the top of the page, then click on Seminar Schedule.
2. Use the **NEW** TUTOR ME Training Video/CD-ROM for your grade level either on your own or in a small group. Rebecca Sitton guides you through a complete unit, telling you exactly what to do and why. Set aside about two hours to acquire complete expertise, or learn about each part of a unit as you need it. Use the TUTOR ME Parents as Partners module to introduce parents to the program and show them how their child will be learning to spell. Visit [www.sittonspelling.com](http://www.sittonspelling.com) for more information.

**To order your Sourcebook for Teaching Spelling and Word Skills:**

Order online at [www.sittonspelling.com](http://www.sittonspelling.com) or contact:

Northwest Textbook Depository

P.O. Box 5608

Portland, OR 97228

800-676-6630

503-639-2559 (fax)

# Build Skills and Word Experiences



Name \_\_\_\_\_, Super Speller

## Similes Describe and Make Writing Come Alive!

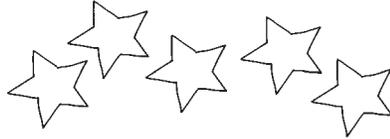
Write sentences that use these similes.

1. like a sudden burst of thunder



2. as flat as a pancake

3. like sparkling stars



4. as sweet as honey

5. as busy as a bee



Make up a new simile of your own. Write it in a sentence. Then exchange papers with a partner and identify the simile. Talk with your partner about how each simile helps to describe.