

Rebecca Sitton's APPLESEED



PLANT THE SEEDS TO GROW SPELLING AND WORD-SKILL LITERACY.

Valentine Word Skills for the Primary Grades

It is a tradition common among friends that February 14 is a day for the exchange of small tokens of affection or notes of friendship. Select from among these Valentine's Day word activities of various difficulties to enrich your word work, as well as to commemorate this day of friendship.

- 📌 Make bright red letter cards for the letters in *valentine* for each student using the Make Letter Cards Blackline Master in your Sourcebook. Then ask students to:
 - arrange the letters to spell *valentine*. If necessary, write the word on the chalkboard for students to duplicate.
 - use the letters to make new words, using each letter only once (e.g., alive, ant, ate, eat, even, late, leave, let, line, live, nail, neat, nine, tail, tale, tan, tea, ten, tie, van, vine).
 - add *s* to *valentine* and make many more words!
- 📌 Write *valentine* on the chalkboard. Underline *tine*. Take away *t*, and ask students to add beginning letters, or *onsets*, to make new words from the rhyming ending letters, or *rimes* (e.g., dine, fine, line, mine, nine, pine, shine, shrine, spine, vine, wine, whine). Some students may write sentences using the new words. Repeat the activity with the long vowel rimes: ___ime, ___ide, ___ile, ___ite, ___ive. Point out the *long vowel/consonant/silent-e* spelling pattern, a consistent pattern for a long vowel sound. Also, note that some words that rhyme have different spelling patterns (the *rime*), such as white and light.
- 📌 Write *Valentine's Day* on the chalkboard. Ask students why *V* and *D* are capitalized. Note that holiday names have capital letters. Then brainstorm more holidays. Write them on the chalkboard as they're suggested, with students predicting the spellings as you write. Extend the lesson to more uses for capital letters. Post a chart "When are capital letters used?" Provide a pad of sticky notes on which students write examples of capitalized words as they encounter them. They stick their note to the chart. Once an abundance of sticky-notes have accumulated, guide students to sort them into categories (e.g., holiday names, people's names; first letter in a sentence; titles of people, movies, books, or plays). For those who have the Practice Books, refer to the twelve mini capitalization charts for a model—page 89 of Level 3. Then have students find more capital-letter words to add to each category over time.
- 📌 A heart is a symbol for Valentine's Day. Demonstrate how to fold paper in half to cut a heart. Then let students cut a heart. On their heart, they write a friendly note or rhyme, decorate it, sign it from *A Secret Pal*, and slip it into a special box for the occasion. On February 14, students enter the classroom and draw a heart from the box to begin the holiday with a note from an unknown pal!

