

Rebecca Sitton's APPLESEED



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

Valentine Word Skills for the Upper 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 use the letters to make new words, using each letter only once (e.g., alien, alive, ate, ant, eat, eaten, elite, enliven, entail, eve, even, event, evil, innate, invent, lane, late, lean, leave, let, lie, line, linen, live, nail, naive, native, navel, neat, neaten, nine, tail, tale, tan, tea, teal, tee, teen, ten, tie, tile, tin, vain, valet, van, vane, veil, vein, vent, vine, vital). Then, using these words, students:
 - sort the words by their part of speech. (Some words can be more than one part of speech!)
 - add prefixes or suffixes.
 - identify the homophones and their partners, then write each in a sentence.
 - identify words with more than one meaning and write their definitions.
 - identify words for which they can write an antonym.
 - identify words for which they can write rhyming words and sort them by spelling pattern (e.g., for *tea* some rhyming words and patterns are: tree, knee, agree; flea, sea, pea; key; me, he, she).
 - add *s* to *valentine* and make many more words!

- 📌 Because a heart shape is a symbol for Valentine's Day—
 - draw and label other symbols.
 - pair *heart* and *hart* as homophones. Then find and write more homophones.
 - note that *heart* has more than one meaning. Make posters of words with more than one meaning, using each word in a sentence to illustrate its flexibility.
 - make far more than a “half-hearted” attempt to collect *heart* idioms!
 - begin with the word *heart* to make a word chain by changing a letter, adding a letter, or omitting a letter to make the next word in the chain. Who can make the longest chain?
 - add *sweet* to *heart* to make *sweetheart*. Then find and write a compound word for every letter of the alphabet. Can you?

- 📌 February 14 is St. Valentine's Day. Get ready by—
 - researching St. Valentine and writing a report.
 - discovering which countries celebrate the holiday. Find them on a map. How do they celebrate?
 - finding out why Cupid is often a symbol for this special day.
 - writing rhyming Valentine verses on decorated notecards to deliver to friends and family to make this day special!