

Rebecca Sitton's APPLESEED



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

Spring Into Spring – Working With Words With More Than One Meaning

How many words are there in the English Language? It depends. Some counts include just the base word, not its other word forms. For example, are mouse and mice different words or should they be counted as one word? Here is another conundrum—is spring (meaning the *season*) a different word from spring (meaning to *leap*)? Of course, a spring can be a *source of water*, as well as the bouncy, elastic *device* in a mattress set, and it can mean to *grow*. All told, estimates of the total vocabulary of English start at around three million words and go up from there.

In this lesson for primary students, your students explore words with more than one meaning.

- Begin by writing *spring* on the chalkboard and ask students to write a sentence using the word. When students share their sentences, note different meanings of *spring*. To emphasize the word's flexibility for meaning, add a sentence or two of your own to the mix. Conclude that *spring* has more than one meaning!
- Next, ask students to collect words with more than one meaning. Use the word collection strategy (this issue of the Appleseed, Sourcebook Teaching Tips), or another method, until students have a generous list. Then ask students to show the different meanings of one of the words by dividing a paper into parts, each part for a different meaning of their word. They write and illustrate sentences in the parts to represent how the word can be used to mean something different. Proofread! Then compile the pages into a class book.

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|------|------|--------|--------|------|--------|---------|-------|
| bank | can | fall | left | mine | pound | sharp | train |
| bark | club | foot | letter | miss | right | show | trip |
| bat | cut | head | light | out | rock | spoke | watch |
| bill | down | heart | lots | over | saw | star | way |
| bit | duck | kind | mean | park | second | through | well |
| blue | fair | leaves | might | play | set | too | yard |