

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 upper grades, 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 select several of the words to illustrate and use in sentences, and to show the different meanings of the words. Ask students to use one page for each word, then compile their pages into a book, make a cover, name their book, and share their book with the class.

arm	can	deal	foot	iron	mean	place	run	slip	story
back	capital	down	form	just	might	plain	safe	smart	suit
ball	case	draw	free	kind	mind	play	sand	sock	swell
band	change	duck	game	leaves	mine	point	saw	sort	table
bank	charge	even	general	left	miss	pound	scale	sound	through
bark	check	fair	great	letter	mouse	print	seal	space	too
bat	class	fall	ground	lie	note	program	season	spell	train
bill	club	feet	hand	light	order	race	second	spoke	trip
bit	coast	felt	hard	long	out	rest	set	spot	trunk
blue	company	field	head	lots	over	rich	sharp	stand	up
box	country	figure	heart	major	page	right	shoot	star	watch
boy	course	fine	hide	match	pants	rock	show	state	way
bright	cross	fire	hold	material	park	room	sign	still	well
broke	cut	firm	hot	matter	part	rose	sink	stole	will
bug	dash	fit	interest	may	party	ruler	skip		yard