

Rebecca Sitton's APPLESEED

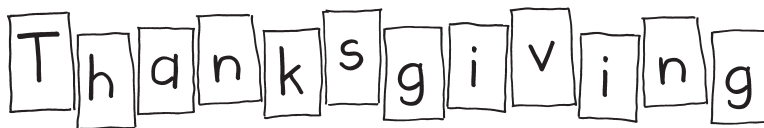


PLANT THE SEEDS TO GROW SPELLING AND WORD SKILL LITERACY.

Word-Making Activities for the Primary Grades

It's true—when students routinely engage in word making and word analysis, the result is measurable growth in essential language skills.

Here are activities of various difficulties to enrich your word work. Begin by writing each letter of *Thanksgiving* on large autumn-colored letter cards and place them in a pocket chart or chalk tray to spell *Thanksgiving*.



- 📖 Mix the letters. Students take turns respelling *Thanksgiving*. If necessary, provide a model word for students in order to reposition the letters.
- 📖 Randomly distribute the letters of *Thanksgiving* among students. Ask them to work as a team to respell *Thanksgiving*.
- 📖 Ask students to find small words inside *Thanksgiving* (thank, thanks, than, in, an, giving). Then they write sentences using the little words. Repeat the activity with current words from across the curriculum (mathematics: mat, math, at, the, he, them, I).
- 📖 Use the letters in *Thanksgiving* to spell small words (e.g., sting, thin, hats, kings, skin, giant, asking, knight, visit, saving, having, ninth, sink, taking, thing). List students' words on a chart. Later, conceal the words for students to recall and write. Next, reveal the words for self-checking.
- 📖 Discuss *Thanksgiving* as a compound word. Post a chart, Compound Words We Know. Beside it, place colorful sticky notes. Then students begin a compound Word Find. They write each compound they discover on a sticky note and stick it to the chart. Later, you write the words on the chart with a marker. Small groups can take turns reading the compounds. Play a deletion activity with the compound words—for example, say *Thanksgiving* without *giving*. Later, cut the chart to form two words from each compound. Place the words in a basket in your literacy center for students to pair to make compound words.
- 📖 Underline *Thanks* in *Thanksgiving*. Have students write a thank-you note to a friend. After pairing for proofreading, students deliver their note.