

# Rebecca Sitton's APPLESEED

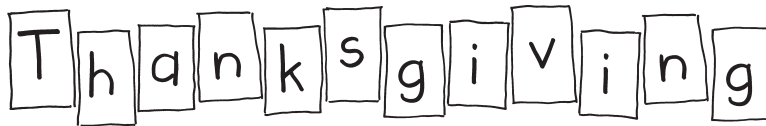


PLANT THE SEEDS TO GROW SPELLING AND WORD SKILL LITERACY.

## Word-Making Activities for the Upper 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*.



Ask students to find and write a generous list of words that contain the digraph *th*, as in *Thanksgiving*. Then have them analyze their word collections to identify words with these or other properties: contain double letters (smooth), contain consonant blends (thirst), have rhyming words (brother: mother, another, smother, other), have an antonym (thaw: freeze), have a suffix (bathing), have a prefix (rethink), are number words (sixteenth), are nouns (teeth), are verbs (breathe), are adjectives (athletic), are proper nouns (South America), have more than three syllables (arithmetic), contain long o (throw).

Discuss *Thanksgiving* as a compound word. Then engage students in these compound word activities:

- 1. Thanksgiving is often a feasting day. Challenge students to find and write compound food words (e.g., watermelon, oatmeal, cornflakes, strawberry, cupcake, popcorn, pancakes, shortbread, applesauce, peppermint, pineapple, fruitcake, grapefruit, blackberry, cornmeal, buttermilk).
- 2. Expand students' Word Find to compound word collections for letters of the alphabet (afternoon, bareback, cartwheel...)
- 3. Have students sort compound words by those for which their meaning is a combination of their word parts (houseboat) and those for which they are not (understand).
- 4. Have students make compound cross-sticks with a topical theme:
- 5. Challenge teams of students to write sensible sentences that have the most compound words.

