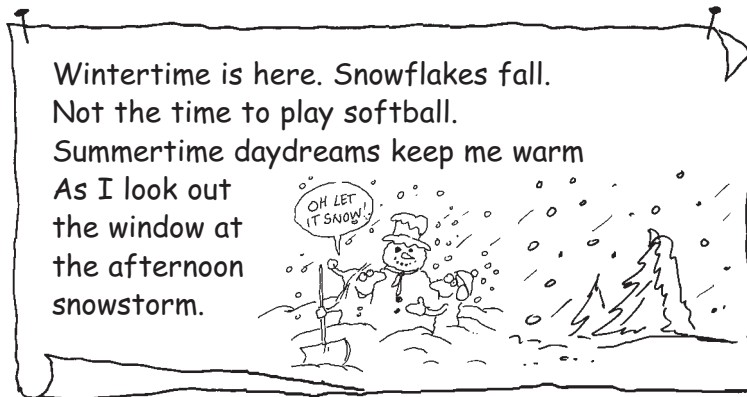


Rebecca Sitton's APPLESEED



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

Making Compound Words for the Upper Grades



Share the poem with students. First, read it aloud. Then ask students to picture in their mind's eye the scene the rhyme describes. If they were the person looking out the window at the snowflakes swirling about, what summertime activities might fill their daydreams?

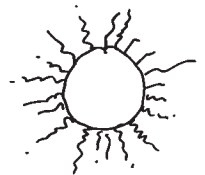
You may wish to ask students to write about the summertime scene they see in their mind's eye.

Next, write the poem on the chalkboard or on a chart. Remind students that some words are really two words that have become one. Ask them to identify this word group (*compound words*). Ask students to identify the poem's compound words (*wintertime, snowflakes, softball, summertime, daydreams, afternoon, and snowstorm*). Underline the compound words so that their two parts are identified.

Ask students to find and write more compound words. Students write the compound words they discover on small sticky notes and place them on a class word chart labeled "Compound Words." Later, you record the words on the chart with a marker. This project will surely grow to several charts!

Often, students enjoy making these word collections in teams, a certain color sticky note identifying each team's members. Healthy competition among teams rapidly increases any word collection!

Once there is a generous list of compound words, bring a little sunshine into a winter day. Use the compound words in the Sunshine Game!



Divide students into two teams. Divide the chalkboard into two sections, one for each team. Ask each team member to draw within their team's section of the chalkboard a sunshine circle with wobble lines of warmth radiating from it. Inside, they write their name.

A member from each team goes to the front of the room, positioned so that the compound word charts are not visible. Each has a small chalkboard and chalk. The teacher gives a compound word clue for one of the words in the collection of compounds: *It is another format for a book with a hard cover.* The

continued . . .



Making Compound Words for the Upper Grades (continued)

players respond by writing on their small chalkboard the word they think is being described (paperback). The first player to finish says, “Sun’s up!” and the chalkboard is held up for checking. If the word is the right one and is correctly spelled, that player wins! If not, the other player’s chalkboard is checked. If it is correct, that player is the winner.

Now the sun will shine more brightly on the winner’s team. The winner erases the sunshine of the defeated player from the opposing team’s side, and draws it on the winner’s side. If neither player wins, the sunshine stays put.

Play continues with players from each team trying to *outshine* the other. The object is to create the *hottest* team, each team’s temperature rising as “sunshine” is accumulated for correct responses.

Let the Sunshine Game and the ongoing collection of compound words become a hot topic to melt the wintertime blues in your classroom!