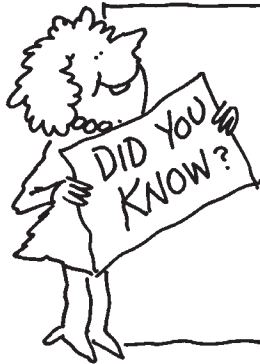


# Rebecca Sitton's APPLESEED



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

## Phonics for Upper Grade Wordsmiths (the letters *ch*)



Nearly 75% of the time, *c* spells /k/. When *c* is followed by *h*, *c* spells a new sound, /ch/. This sound is most often spelled with the letters *ch*, but not always—picture, catch, question. Students may discover that *ch* can spell other sounds—/k/ as in *character*, /sh/ as in *machine*—and can be silent, as in *yacht*. The /k/ spelling of *ch* is a Greek spelling from the Greek letter *x* (*chi*). In English words borrowed from French, *ch* is pronounced /sh/, as in *chef*.

Brainstorm for words that have two or more syllables that contain the *ch* digraph, the sound heard at the end of the month of *March*. Students should collect words that begin with /ch/, have /ch/ in the middle, or end with /ch/. Sort the words by the position of /ch/. Write these words on a chart.

<i>ch</i> as in the month of <i>March</i>		
<u>beginning</u>	<u>middle</u>	<u>end</u>
champion	achieve	approach
charcoal	Massachusetts	impeach
charity	exchange	ostrich
chocolate	enchanted	spinach
chimpanzee	franchise	sandwich
		cockroach

Students can add words to the chart over time as they discover more. Provide small sticky notes on which students can write their words. Then students stick the sticky notes to the *ch* chart in the proper column. Later, you can add their words to the chart with a marker. The combination of two letters that spell one sound is called a *digraph*. The letter *h* creates a digraph when it follows *c*, *p*, *s*, *t*, or *w*.



## Phonics for Upper Grade Wordsmiths (the letters *ch*) (continued)

Make related word collections—

- 🍎 Collect /ch/ words spelled *tch* (i.e., clutch, scratch, witch, stitch, catch, fetch, hatch, switch, watchdog, pitchfork).
- 🍎 Collect /k/ words spelled *ch* (i.e., character, stomach, monarch, chronology, archive, echo, psychology, architect, chorus, choir, chlorine, chemicals).
- 🍎 Collect /sh/ words spelled *ch* (i.e., machine, chef, mustache, parachute, brochure, chiffon, chaperone, champagne, chateau, chauffeur, chagrin).

Extend the chart activities—

- 🍎 Have students write sentences using two of the words in the same sentence.
- 🍎 Ask students to use as many of the words as possible in a story that contains dialogue.
- 🍎 Using propaganda techniques, ask students to select a chart word for which they create an advertisement.
- 🍎 Which words can be nouns...verbs...adjectives... adverbs?
- 🍎 Select one chart word and make a new set of related words (ostrich: robin, parrot, finch, eagle, sparrow, buzzard, crow, parakeet...). Then students name their set of words.
- 🍎 Add suffixes to selected words. Remove the suffix from words that already have a suffix.
- 🍎 Add prefixes to selected words. Remove the prefix from words that already have a prefix.
- 🍎 For words spelled *tch*, determine how the preceding vowel sound is a predictor for the spelling pattern *tch* instead of *ch*.
- 🍎 Ask students to write clues for chart words for their classmates to identify. (It can be a fabric: *chiffon*. It is a synonym for attain: *achieve*.)
- 🍎 Play this word game! Begin with a word from one of the word-collection charts. Play as singles, doubles, or in teams! Here, *chagrin* starts the game. Then students find and write words of four syllables or more that begin with each letter. Correctly spelled words for each letter earn one point. Time the game—on your mark, get set, go!

C—catastrophe, cafeteria, calculation, cancellation, celebrating...

H—habitual, haphazardly, harmonica, helicopter, honorary, heterogeneous...

A—absolutely, accessorize, accidentally, accumulation, acquaintances...

G—generalize, generously, geography, glamorously, grammatically, gymnasium...

R—radiation, reactivate, reasonably, recognition, reorganize, recommendation...

I—iridescent, illegible, irresponsible, information, idealistic, immediately, identify...

N—necessary, navigator, notification, numerator, noticeably, noncompliance...

Then have students sort each set of words by the sound the first letter spells. For example, for the letter *i*, the words *idealistic* and *identity* would be in a group separate from the others.

At another time, play this game with words that end with the letter of the game word. Some students may enjoy playing the game with words that have the game word's letters in the middle!

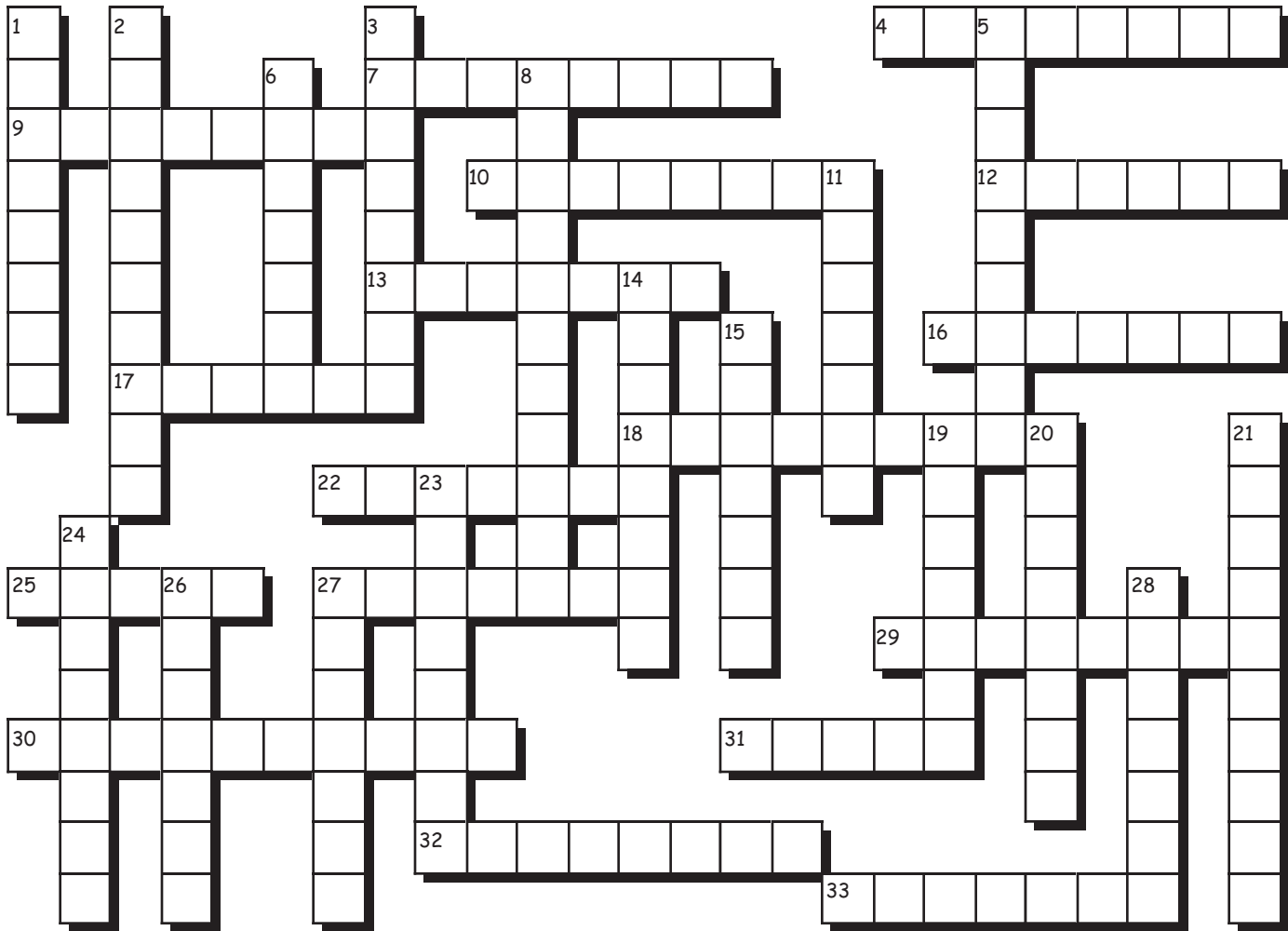
Now, for a crossword puzzle with words that contain the *ch* digraph that spells /ch/!



Name \_\_\_\_\_



## ch as in the month of March



### ACROSS

4. single man, unmarried man
7. affixed
9. winner of a contest or tournament, victor
10. enchanting, captivating, delightful
12. cool, brisk, nippy
13. to charge a public official with serious misconduct
16. use these to light a fire
17. combination of breakfast and lunch
18. bought
22. opposite of poorest
25. many, or a group
27. one who breaks the rules and does not play fairly

29. payment for salary or wages
30. ape, monkey
31. timepiece worn on wrist
32. grabbed, took
33. ate, chomped, chewed

### DOWN

1. swap, trade
2. variable
3. commonly eaten at the midday meal
5. ingredient in brownies that gives them their color and flavor
6. room in the house where food is cooked
8. accomplishment
11. cranky, grumpy, irritable

14. a novel is divided into these sections
15. the troops \_\_\_\_\_ in perfect formation
19. leafy green vegetable
20. soaked, dripping wet
21. another word for blackboard
23. board game played by two people, each using 12 round red or black pieces
24. container for carrying food to school
26. hollow vertical structure that allows smoke to escape from the fireplace
27. a television station
28. rested upon, balanced