

Rebecca Sitton's APPLESEED

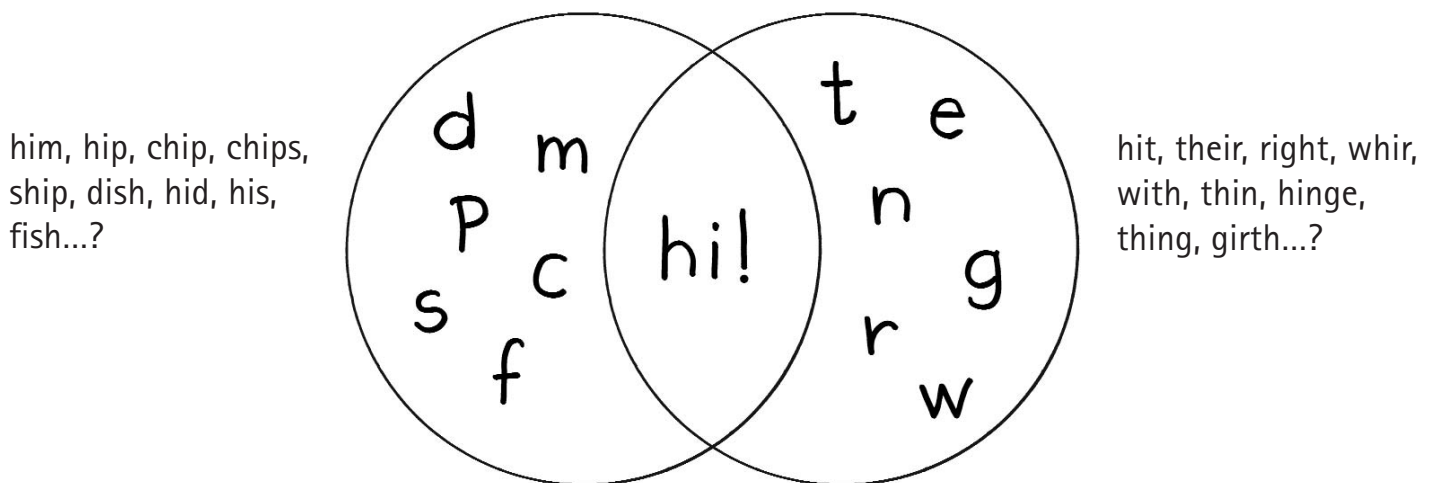


PLANT THE SEEDS TO GROW SPELLING AND WORD-SKILL LITERACY.

Making Words the Venn Diagram Way

You've all used Venn Diagrams. One way teachers often use them in the Language Arts is to visually present two versions of the same piece of literature. Some parts are the same in both versions, yet other story elements are facets of one story or the other. The overlapping circles show the story commonalities. The different elements are recorded in the outlying circle parts.

You can use a Venn diagram for word-making games. Here is one to start, but it will be more fun for students to make their own.



To make new games, write the letters of the alphabet on pieces of paper. Separate the vowels and the consonants. Put the vowels in one jar and the consonants in another. Select students to draw the letters. One vowel and one consonant are drawn for the center of the Venn Diagram, the overlapping circles. Then students draw twelve more letters from either of the two jars, six for each outlying circle part. As letters are drawn, record them in the appropriate parts of a Venn Diagram on the chalkboard. Then go for it! How many words can be made?

Students can work on this word-making task in teams or independently. The game can take place over time (perhaps a game a week) or done in a timed session.

Some combinations of letters make many words, some not so many.

And set up the rules—do proper nouns count? Of course, words must be real words—words that can be found in a dictionary! This criterion should be cause for some academic, argumentative, literacy discussion!