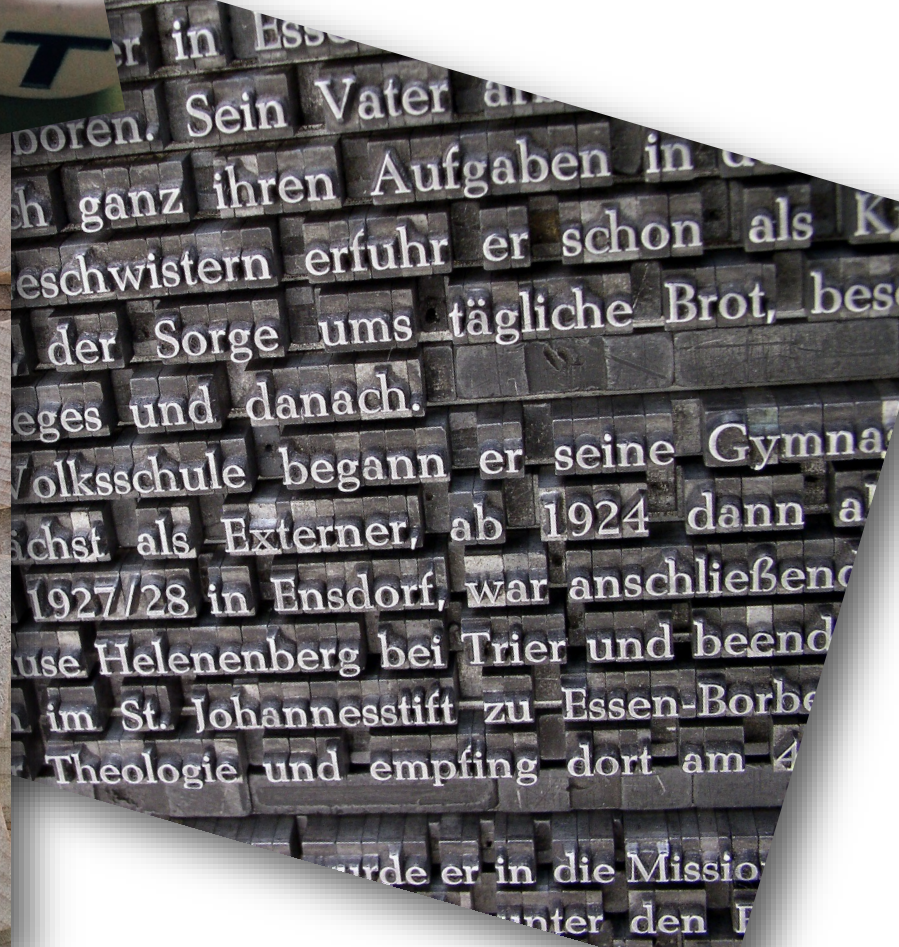




An Exploration of Words

Carol Walters, Debbie Nelson &
Joan Pearce

Inspired by Ruth Ayers



English Language Arts

3

4

5

Using language in creative and playful ways helps us understand how language works.



Big Ideas



Learning Standards



Curricular Competencies

- ▶ Use writing and design processes to plan, develop, and create [texts](#) for a variety of purposes and audiences
- ▶ Use language in [creative and playful ways](#) to [taking risks in trying out new word choices and formats; playing with words, structures, and ideas](#)
- ▶ Communicate in sentences and paragraphs, applying conventions of Canadian spelling, grammar, and punctuation

- ▶ Develop and apply expanding [word knowledge](#)



Key Qualities of the Traits

IDEAS

Clear messages

Narrowed focus

Vivid details

Stays on Topic

ORGANIZATION

A brilliant beginning

A mighty middle

An excellent ending

Transitions that create flow

SENTENCE FLUENCY

Complete sentences

Sentences begin with
different words

Sentences are different lengths

WORD CHOICE

Fresh and original
word combinations

Trying out new words

Poetic devices

VOICE

Passion for the topic

Contains writer's personality

There's a reader/writer
connection

CONVENTIONS

Spelling

Grammar

Punctuation

Use of paragraphs



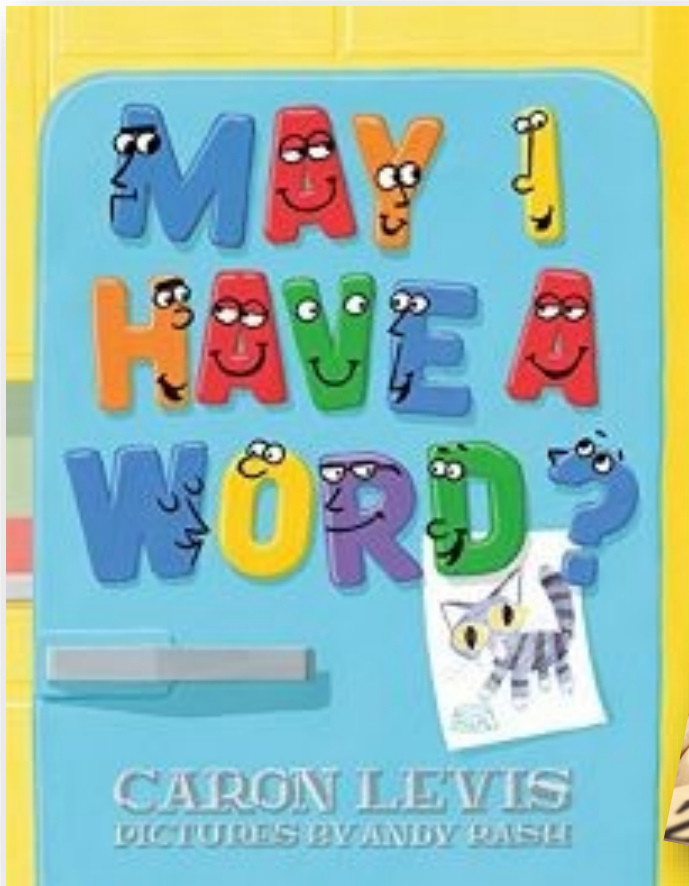
Choose a book...

Think Creatively...

What can be done to alert our students to the power of words?

Read, May I Have a Word?

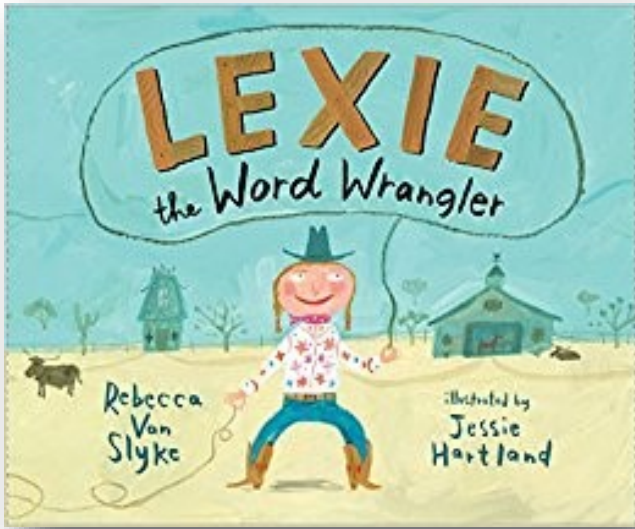
By Caron Levis. Set it on a table in your classroom. Surround the book with letters and see what happens next!



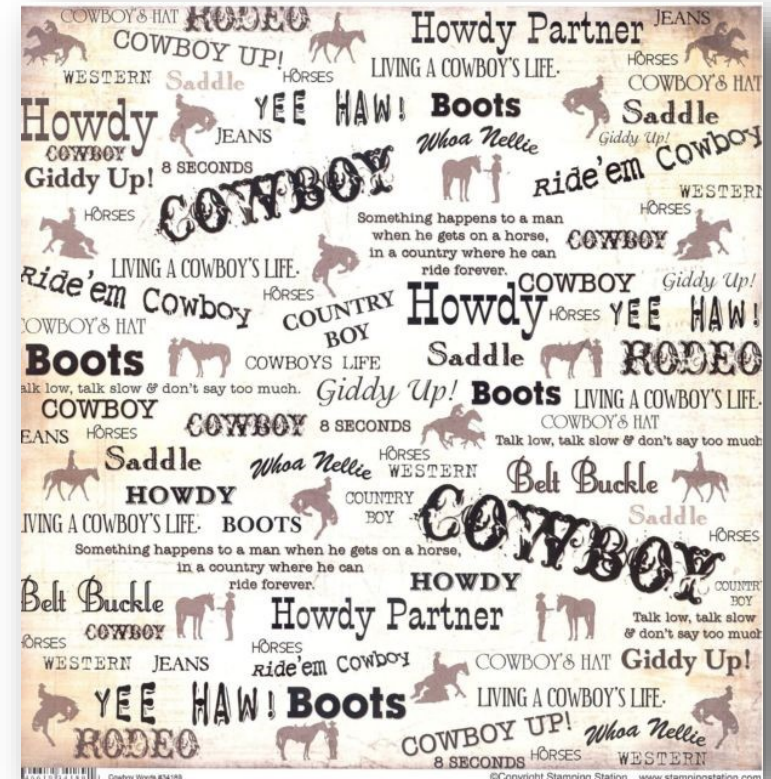
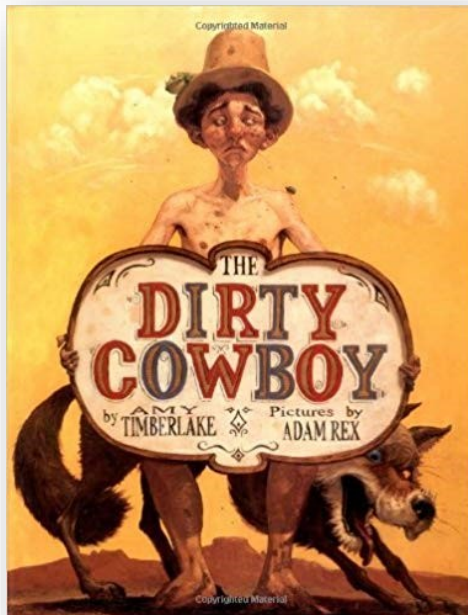
Choose a book...
Think C

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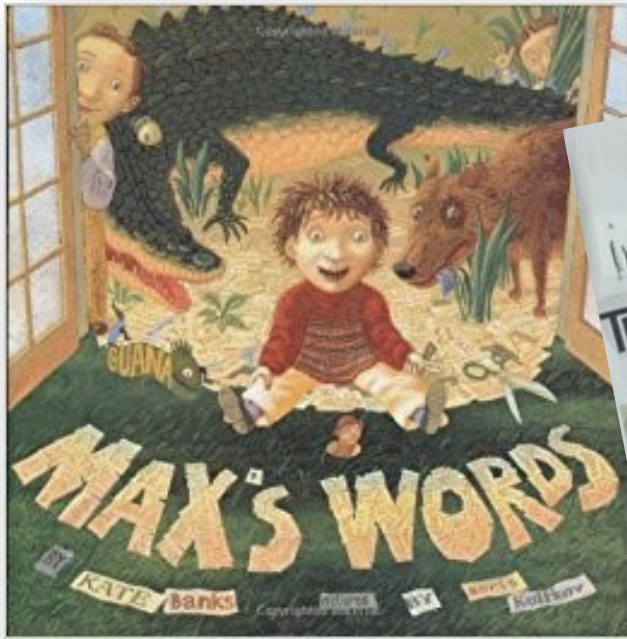
Read, Lexi the Word Wrangler by Rebecca Van Slyke. Pick out the cowboy vocabulary. How many other cowboy words and phrases can be found? On a table in your classroom, place a copy of Amy Timberlake's, Dirty Cowboy beside Lexi the Word Wrangler for a little word inspiration! And when in doubt, 'cowboy' words are a quick search away!



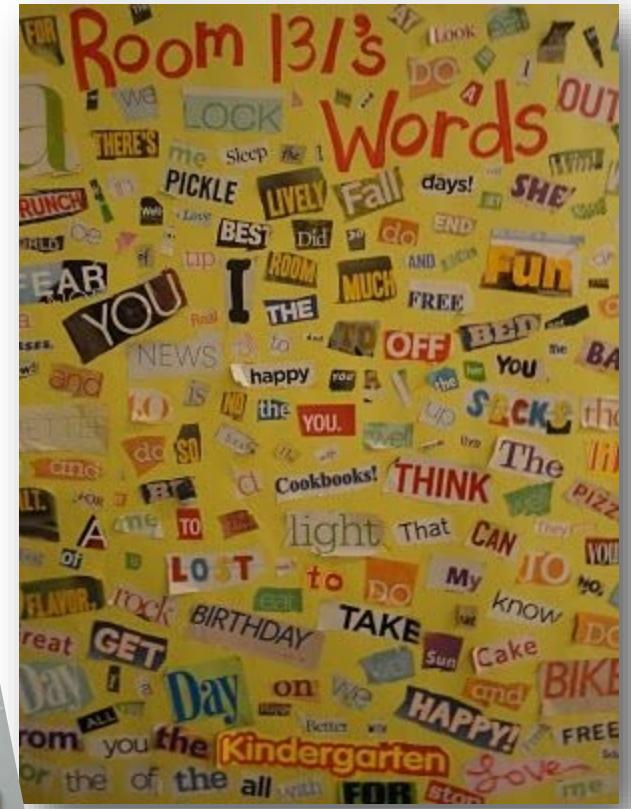
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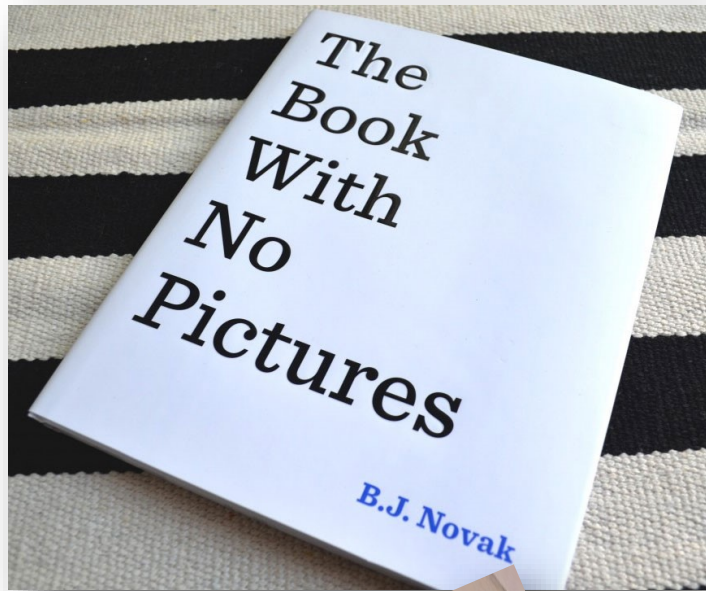
Read, Max's Words by Kate Banks. Gather words from magazines, newspapers, old books, flyers etc. Make words. Make phrases. Make sentences. Or make stories!



Choose a book...

Think Creatively...

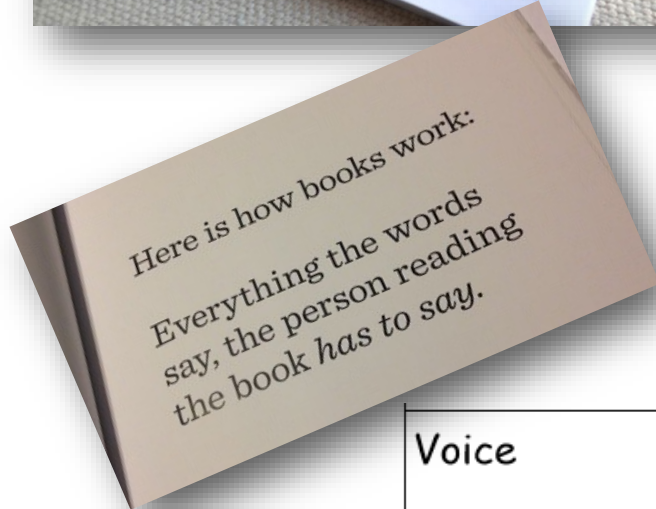
What can be done to alert our students to the power of words?




Read, The book With No Pictures by B.J. Novak. It's a fabulous example of voice!

Challenge your students to write ala Novak with funny messages readers would prefer NOT to read! Aloud!

Set criteria first! We don't want the boundaries extended beyond what's acceptable!



| | | |
|-------|---|---|
| Voice |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• writer's passion for topic• writing has personality• reader/writer connection |
|-------|---|---|

| VOICE |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Passion for the topicContains writer's personalityThere's a reader/writer connection |

Choose a book...

Think Creatively...

What can be done to alert our students to the power of words?



Read, *Little i* by Michael Hall.

Invite students to write their own version of this book ...

't' has lost his cross bar;

'k' has lost his kick;

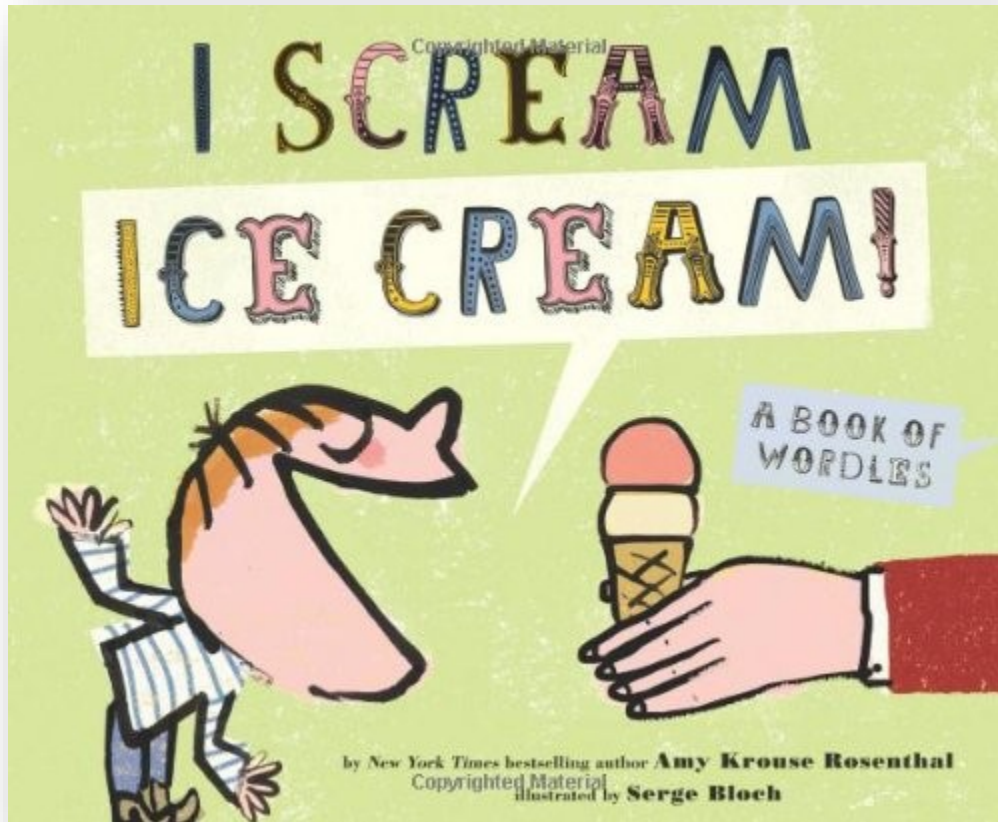
'a' has lost her stick and now everyone is calling her 'oh' and 'ah';

Without her horizontal line, 'f' is nothing but a hook. There are so many possibilities!

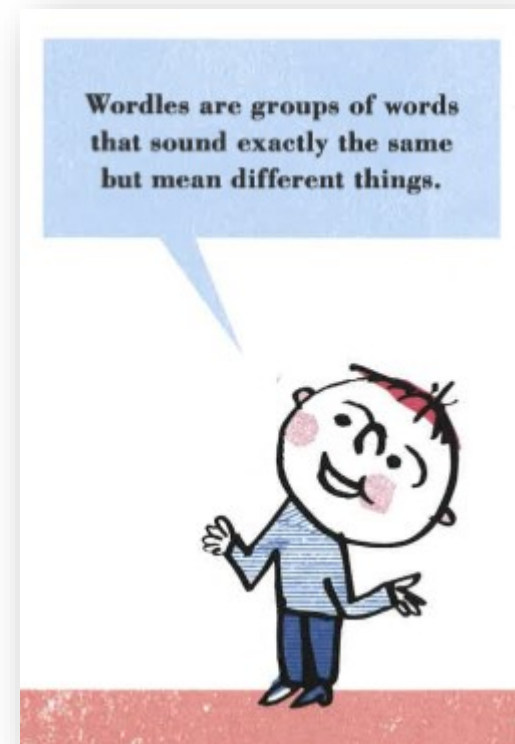
Choose a book...

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What's a wordle?

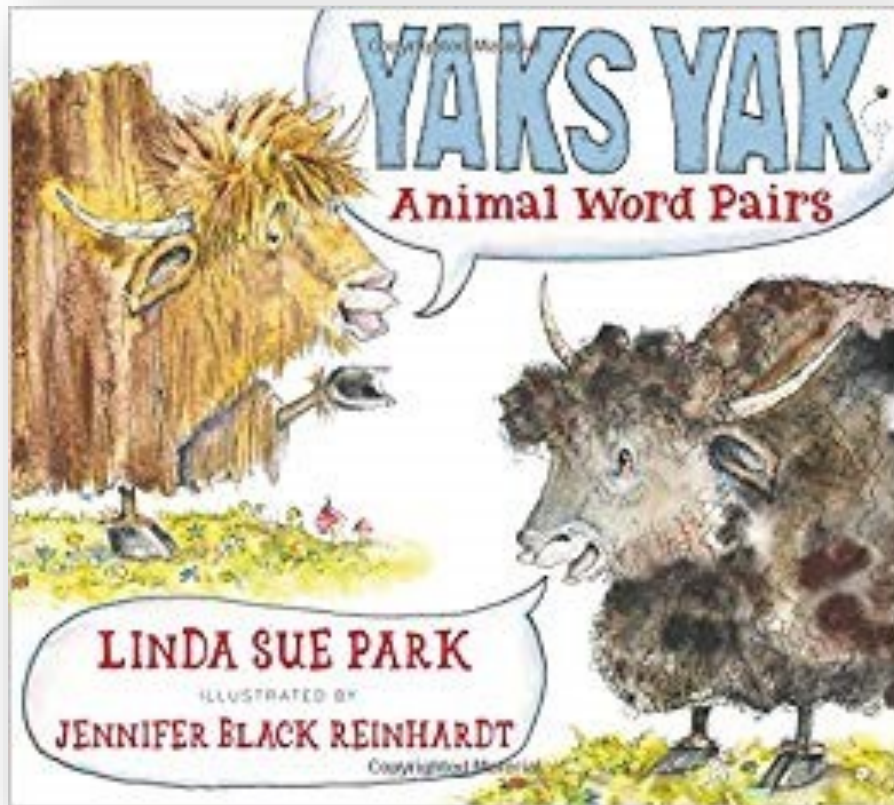


Read this book *s l o w l y* and have students guess each double meaning. Some are easier, some are harder. But get your students thinking through these word riddles!

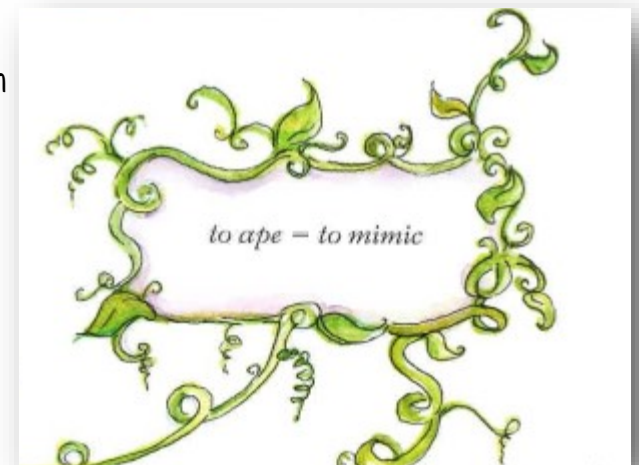
Choose a book...

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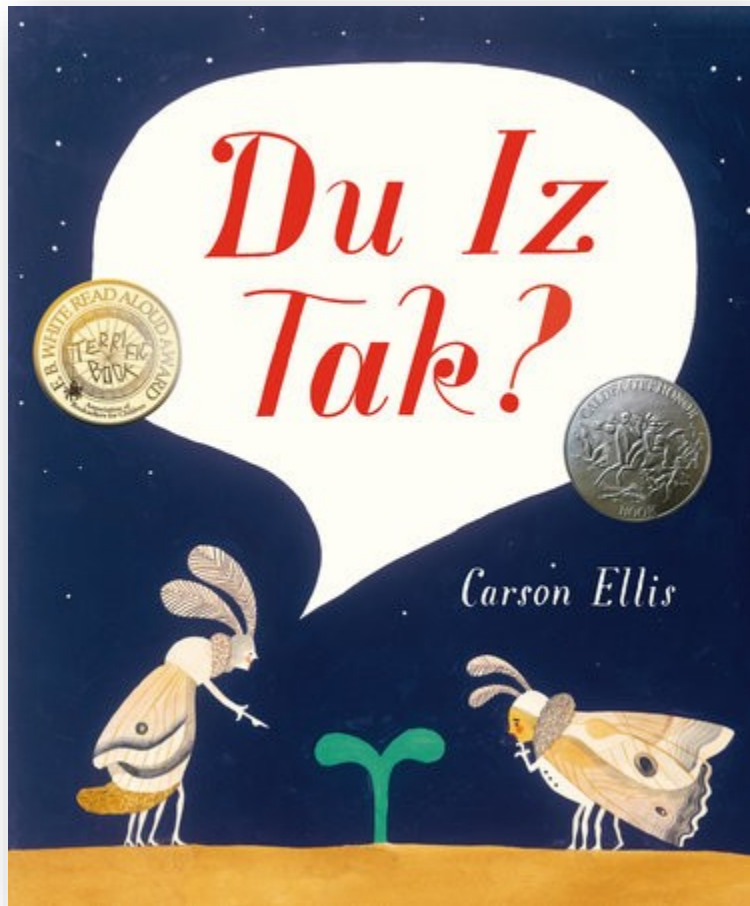
Comical word pairings make Linda Sue Park's book, *Yaks Yak: Animal Word Pairs* a natural addition to some word work in your class. Some of the vocabulary will be familiar, but you'll be pleased to see there are little definition boxes on each page. They might just come in handy



Choose a book...

Think Creatively...

What can be done to alert our students to the power of words?



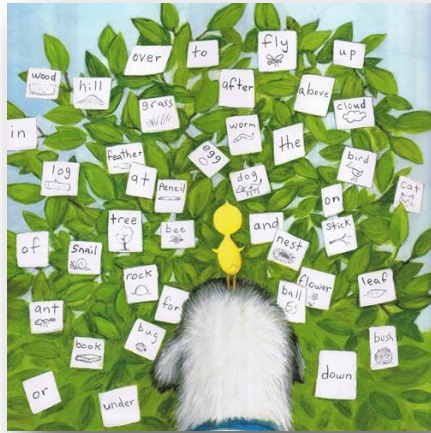
This is a fabulous book to make inferences. With gobbledygook words, pictures offer support so meaning can be made! Can your students rewrite this book in English?



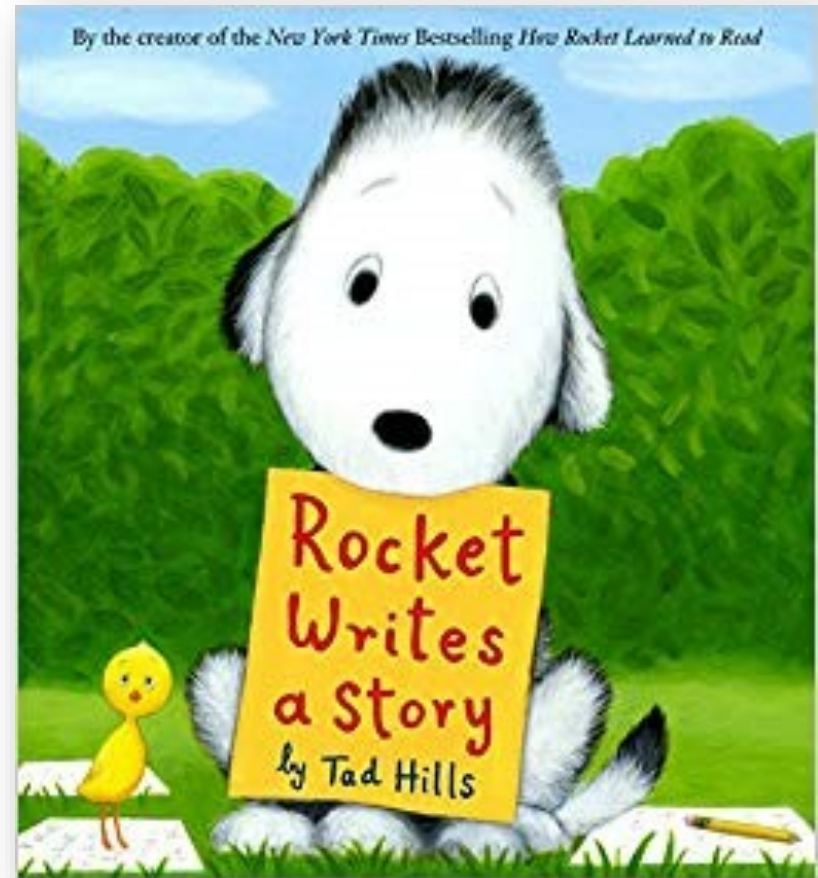
Choose a book... Think

Think Creatively...

Rocket loves to collect words, but can he write a story? With buckets of words and suggested characters, setting and problems, your students can choose a story from the buckets!



What can be done to alert our students to the power of words?



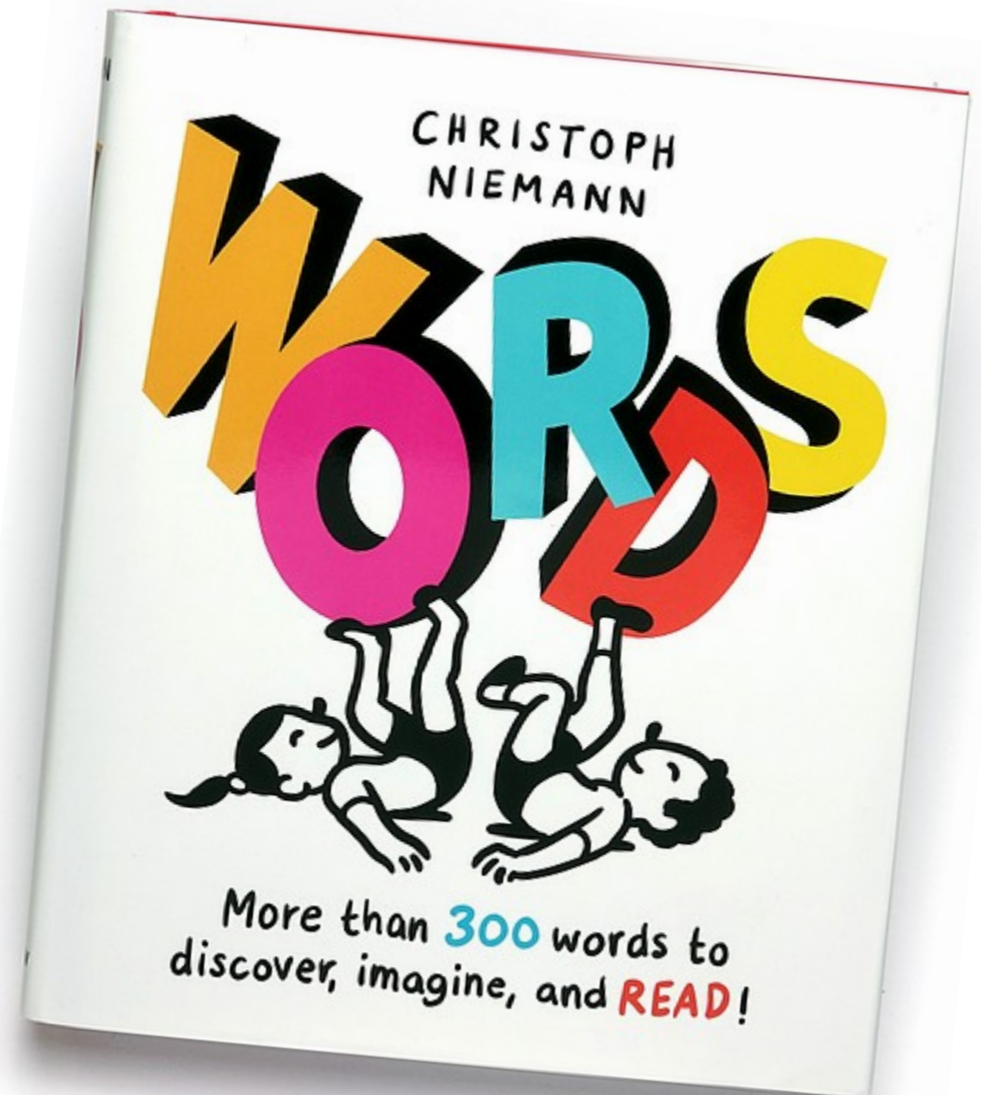
Choose a book...

Think Creatively...

What can be done to alert our students to the power of words?

Can you think of other words to describe the images, or new drawings to interpret the words? Cover a word with your finger and ask a friend to guess it just by looking at the picture. These are a few ideas for word games, but let your students figure out games of their own. You might just be surprised by their creativity!

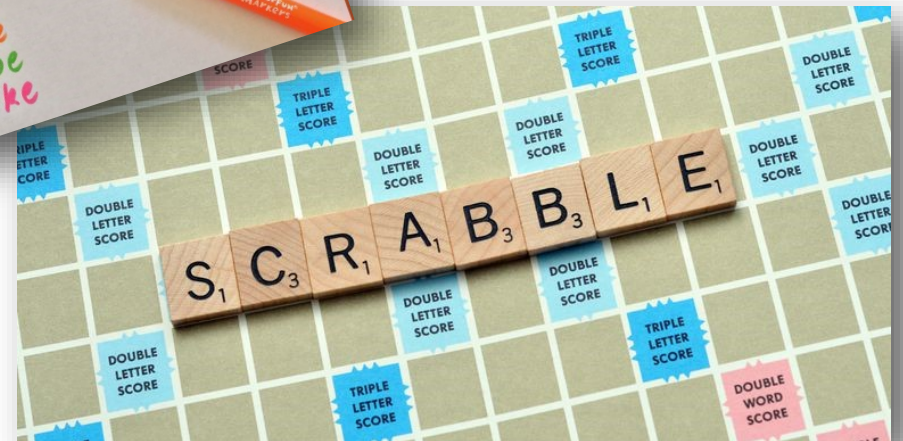
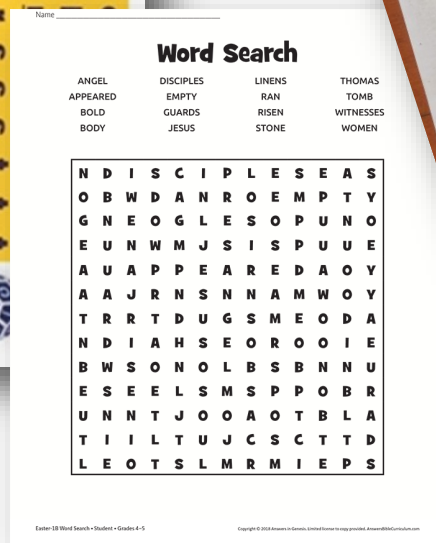
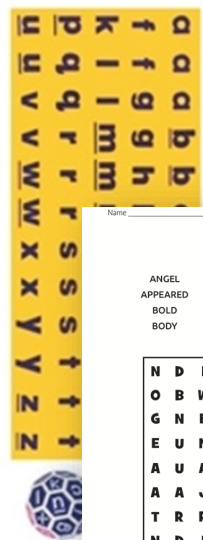
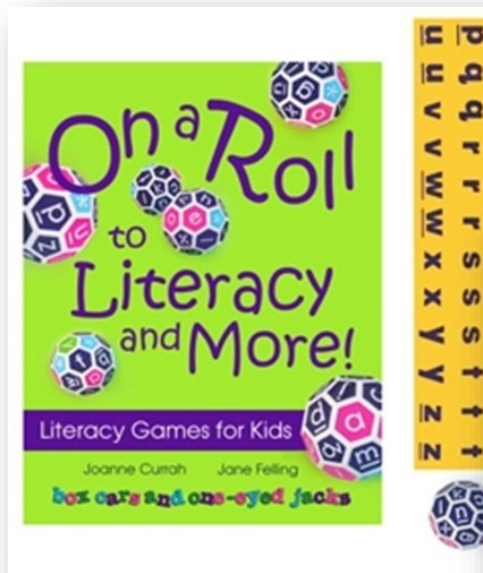
This one's great for your English language learners too.



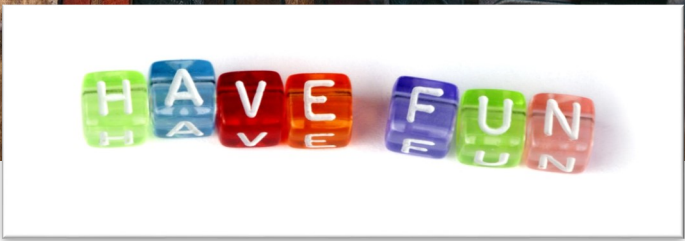
Choose other materials...
Think



box cars
and
one-eyed jacks®



What can be done to alert our
students to the power



LARGE WOOD LETTERS 1890-1940

Blue Ink #74