

SYNONYMS



Essential Questions

- WHAT ARE SYNONYMS?
- HOW CAN SYNONYMS ENHANCE WRITING AND EXPAND VOCABULARIES?
- WHAT WORD CAN REPLACE A VOCABULARY WORD USING A THESAURUS?

Learning Intention / Overview

Synonyms are words or phrases with the same or similar meanings. This activity will practice identifying and locating synonyms for vocabulary words used in Charlotte's Web. Synonyms enhance writing and allow students to vary vocabulary usage without changing the contextual meaning of the story.

Methods / Teaching Strategies

- Class Discussion
- Partner Work
- Use of a Reference Book (Thesaurus)
- Independent Practice

Assessment of Learning

- Synonyms Page(provided)
- Demonstrated an understanding of how to use a Thesaurus.

How might you customize or alter this lesson?

Key Learning Areas

Vocabulary

Concepts Taught

Synonyms

Target Age

9 – 10 Year Olds

Duration

1 x 60 minute Session

You will need:

Thesaurus

Synonyms Page



Online Resources:

- <http://edgalaxy.com/educational-quotes>
- <http://edgalaxy.com/classroom-posters-charts/2013/9/10/14-educational-quotes-posters>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iPnYfwLOW84>

Teaching Instructions

Activity 1: Give each child a Thesaurus.

Students will probably remember that synonyms are words or phrases with the same or similar meaning. Reinforce this understanding by showing the following chart. Have students locate each word in a thesaurus for practice. Discuss the words or phrases that could be used to replace the common vocabulary words with stronger more powerful word choices.

pretty	beautiful, gorgeous, attractive, good-looking, lovely
talk	speak, chat, address, proclaim, chatter,
cry	sob, blubber, boohoo, squall, wail
strange	weird, odd, bizarre, outlandish, unusual
all	whole, entire, totally, altogether

Activity 2: Display the following short paragraph for student viewing. Discuss how the word “good” is used throughout the paragraph. Ask students to pair up and brainstorm a list of words that could replace “good.” Then as a class decide which synonyms would be best to replace each “good” used throughout the paragraph. Explain how replacing “good” in the paragraph with stronger more precise words makes the writing better.

The party last night was good. The good food and good punch were party favorites. Everyone thought the games were good too. Good friends being together at parties is good memory making.

(Rewrite paragraph as a class: Answers may vary)

The party last night was fabulous. The delicious food and tasty punch were party favorites. Everyone thought the games were fun too. Awesome friends being together at parties is terrific memory making.

Activity 3: Pass out the synonyms page and allow students to complete this independently.

Charlotte's Web

SYNONYMS

A. READ EACH CONTEXT CLUE FROM CHARLOTTE'S WEB. UNDERLINE THE SYNONYMS IN EACH ONE. REMEMBER THAT SYNONYMS CAN BE WORDS OR PHRASES.

1. Wilbur threw himself down in agony. Great sobs racked his body. He heaved and grunted with desolation.
2. "Do away with it?" Shrieked Fern. "You mean kill it?"
3. Wilbur saw a curious object. It was a sort of sac or cocoon.
4. Suddenly Wilbur felt lonely and friendless.
5. "You're terrific as far as I'm concerned, replied Charlotte. And I think you're sensational."
6. The Fair Grounds will soon be empty and deserted.

B. READ EACH SENTENCE FROM CHARLOTTE'S WEB AND REPLACE EACH UNDERLINED WORD WITH A SYNONYM FROM THE THESAURUS.

7. "Just the same, I don't envy you," said the old sheep.
8. Actually Wilbur felt queer to be outside his fence.
9. "Mr. Arable?" sobbed Wilbur.
10. "Special announcement!" said the loud speaker in a pompous voice.

Charlotte's Web SYNONYMS

AnswerKey

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ANSWERS WILL VARY:

7. "Just the same, I don't envy you," said the old sheep. (begrudge/grudge)
8. Actually Wilbur felt queer to be outside his fence. (strange/odd)
9. "Mr. Arable?" sobbed Wilbur. (cry/blubbered)
10. "Special announcement!" said the loud speaker in a pompous voice. (proud/important)