

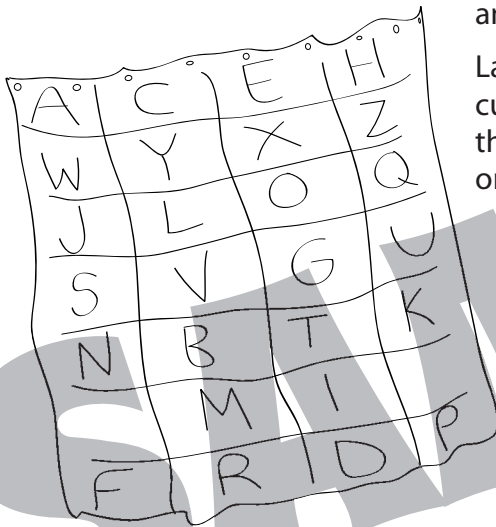
SHOWER POWER!

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- shower curtain
- marker
- one beanbag

THIS BUDGET FRIENDLY GAME TEACHES STUDENTS QUICK THINKING SKILLS WHILE REINFORCING THEIR VOCABULARY.

Purchase a cheap shower curtain for this activity. Divide the curtain into 30 squares. Use the marker to write a letter in each square in no specific order. Include each letter of the alphabet and a few "free choice" squares.



Lay the curtain flat on the floor. Have students gather around the curtain. One student tosses a beanbag onto one of the squares on the curtain. Based on the grade level of your students, choose one or more of the questions or activities below.

- Students take turns tossing the beanbag.
- Say their letter.
- Is their letter a vowel or a consonant?
- What letter in the alphabet comes before (or after) their letter?
- Say a word that starts with that letter.
- Say a noun/verb/adjective that starts with that letter.
- Make up a sentence that uses their letter alliteratively.
- Spell a word that starts with that letter.
- Say or spell a word that ends with that letter.

There are lots of ways to do this! A fun twist: after the first student says a word (or noun, verb, etc.), the student on their left or right has 15 seconds (for example) to come up with one, too, continuing until someone can't beat the timer.

Students might struggle with letters like X and Z. Prepare some examples to help them navigate these tough letters.

Challenge students to think quickly on the spot!

FOR YOUR STUDENTS:

Give prizes (like a homework pass) for cool, creative, WOW! words!





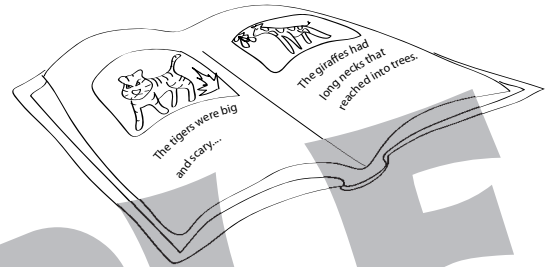
DETAILS, DETAILS, DETAILS

Use this lesson to get students writing with all five senses!

Do this activity after your class goes on a field trip to a zoo, farm, museum, planetarium, etc. If you can't go on a field trip, take one by walking around your school grounds. As a class, tell students to call out descriptive words of what they saw, smelled, heard, felt, and maybe even tasted on the field trip. Write the descriptive words on the board. Encourage students to use creative WOW! words.

Next, tell each student to picture an image from the field trip in their mind. Students should write a descriptive paragraph that lets the reader see, hear, smell, feel, and taste (if applicable!) their image. Students can illustrate or decorate the paper, too.

Collect all the pages and illustrations. Combine and staple them into a book. Recruit a student to make a decorative cover for the field trip memory book. Display the book in your classroom.



READING TO REMEMBER

Bump up reading comprehension with this tool!

This reading comprehension activity challenges students to identify and organize the details of a story. It's also a great tool for "documenting" reading when you don't use (or have books not part of) Accelerated Reader or Reading Counts.

After the student finishes reading a book, they will need one sheet of paper. Have them fold the paper into fourths and unfold the paper. Using the creases as boundaries, the first square should be labeled "Book Basics." The second is "Who is in the story?" The third is "What is the problem?" The fourth is "How is the problem solved?"

Students fill out the four categories and turn in their sheet to be graded for reading comprehension or to be counted towards their reading goal. Collect the descriptions and grade them for effective reading comprehension.

You can use the template in the back of this book (copy at 200% to fill a page) and post it on the wall in your class for students to look at and copy.