



LESSON: Cultivating Mischief! Synonyms and Antonyms

Grades: 1-3

Subject Areas: Language Arts

Estimated Time: 60 minutes

I. Summary: WordGirl's extensive vocabulary helps her to get out of sticky situations and solve difficult problems. She knows that it's not enough to know only one word to describe a thing; she often has a variety of synonyms and antonyms at her disposal. This lesson focuses on the collection of new words for a richer, stronger vocabulary. Students will be introduced to synonyms and antonyms through the use of a class "Synonym Tree" and "Antonym Tree."

II. Objectives:

- Students will experience and appreciate the richness of words
- Students will become familiar with the terms "synonym" and "antonym"
- Students will be encouraged to actively participate in word identification
- Students will practice using new words in context
- Students will work together to identify synonyms and antonyms

III. Materials:

- Bulletin board reserved for a Synonym Tree and an Antonym Tree
- Green construction paper, cut out in the shape of leaves
- Brown construction paper, cut out in the shape of 2 large trees with branches
- A container to put the "leaves" in
- Tacks, to attach the leaves to the tree branches

IV. Procedure:

1. In advance, cut out 16 green leaves. In marker, write down the following words (and associated clues for the more difficult words) on each leaf:

(Synonyms)

naughty (clue: Tobey's behavior is bad.)

unruly (clue: He was impossible to control.)

willful (clue: She's determined to have her own way.)

rascal (clue: A synonym for "naughty")

sly (clue: Granny May is sly because she's clever and tricky.)

troublesome (clue: The Butcher causes a lot of problems!)

teasing (clue: I enjoyed teasing my sister by making fun of her.)

rowdy (clue: That's sure a loud group of kids!)



VI. Extensions in Learning:

- Print up a master class list of synonyms and antonyms on the word trees. Ask students to use at least ten of them in a written description of one of the WordGirl characters. Share this with the class.
- Encourage students to continue collecting synonym and antonym leaves for the two trees. Use different root words, such as: "frustrating," "ultimate," "flabbergasted," or "distracted." These words were also presented on WordGirl.
- Invite students to write a dialogue with a partner, including as many synonyms and antonyms, as possible. Perform these for the class.

**Related National Standards (These are established by McREL at URL:
<http://www.mcrel.org/standards-benchmarks/>.)**

- Language Arts
- Working with others