

Thesaurus

Learning Objective:

Gaining familiarity with the function, structure, and use of a thesaurus.

Materials:

- Illustrated Thesaurus
- Recording Form
- Index Cards
- Markers
- Glue
- Scissors
- Self-Pacing Chart
- Three-Ring Binder
- Hole Punch
- Plastic Recipe Box

Presentation and Storage:

In addition to a thesaurus and recording forms, include about 40 labelled, illustrated, and laminated word cards at this center. When selecting words from the thesaurus for these cards, choose those that have clear illustrations. Photocopy these illustrations and glue them on the cards to help your students work independently. Place in a three ring binder a copy of the self-pacing chart for each student. Present the cards in a plastic recipe box next to the thesaurus. Keep the recording forms in the classroom "office".

Process:

A student takes a card and looks up the word in the thesaurus. The recording form asks the student to locate the word using guide words, identify available synonyms, and, most importantly, write a sentence using a synonym. When they have finished, have the students write the date on the corresponding word-card space on the self-pacing chart so they don't repeat work.

Helpful Hints

This center requires some very direct teaching. The student-expert model is most appropriate for teaching this activity, but it is not enough. Students need to see 'real-life' applications of using a thesaurus. Have the students use the thesaurus during writing activities such as writing workshop, shared writing, guided writing, and 'morning message' to provide an authentic context and applications of the skills.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Thesaurus

My word is _____.

I found it on page _____.

The guide words are _____ and _____.

Here's my word in a sentence.

Synonyms for my words are

Here's my improved sentence using a synonym.

Name: _____

Thesaurus Self-Pacing Chart

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
11.	12.	13.	14.	15.
16.	17.	18.	19.	20.
21.	22.	23.	24.	25.
26.	27.	28.	29.	30.
31.	32.	33.	34.	35.
36.	37.	38.	39.	40.