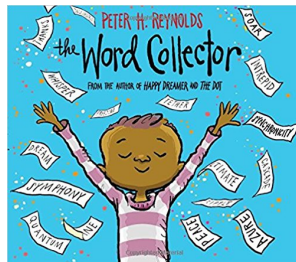


Use Word Tools

The Word Collector

Written and Illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds



Description:

Jerome collects words that he sees, hears and reads. What do you do when your collection gets too big?

Connections:

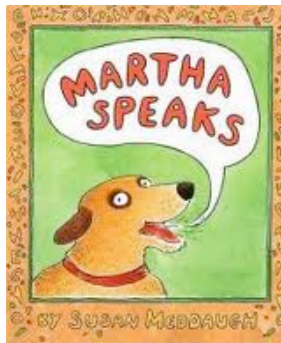
Peter Reynolds literally writes a guidebook on how to fall in love with words. One reading of this book is not nearly enough. After the second reading, discuss the various ways Jerome finds new words and uses them for the benefit of all.

Beside the message of the story, the book is scattered with important, gentle words that all children need to know and understand. Take time to discuss as many and as often as you can.

Use Word Tools

Martha Speaks

Written and Illustrated by Susan Meddaugh



Description:

Martha the dog eats alphabet soup. The letters go to her brain and enable her to talk, talk and talk some more.

Connections:

Begin the lesson by showing various “tools” and discuss how they are helpful. Examples: A pencil helps us write, a fork helps lift food to our mouths and a notebook holds our papers. Martha uses alphabet soup as her tool. The letters in the soup help her form words and sentences to talk. Just like Martha, children can use word walls as a tool to remember words and sentences as they read.

There are many different Martha picture books. Each time a new word tool is introduced, another Martha book could be read to reinforce the connection between tools and reading.

Martha Walks the Dog

Martha Calling

Martha Blah Blah

Martha Speaks

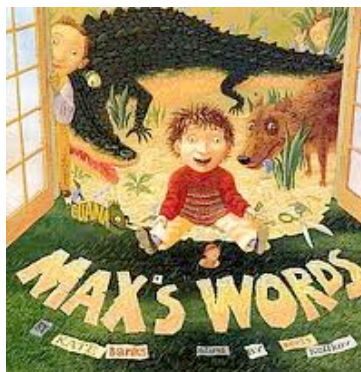
Martha and Skits

Perfectly Martha

Use Word Tools

Max's Words

Written by Kate Banks...Illustrated by Boris Kulikov



Description:

Max decides to collect “words” after seeing his brother’s collection of coins and stamps. Soon Max discovers that words can be put together to make sentences and ultimately stories.

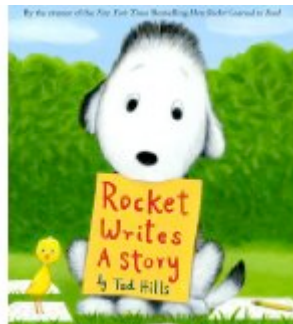
Connections:

Use this story to draw attention to the world of words. This might be the perfect book to read when introducing a class word collector. (A posted alphabetical grid to record “zesty” words discovered during read alouds.) Help children see that Max not only collected words, but used them to create stories and they can too.

Use Word Tools

How Rocket Writes a Story

By Tad Hills



Description:

Loveable pup Rocket creates a collection of interesting words and then decides to use them to write a story.

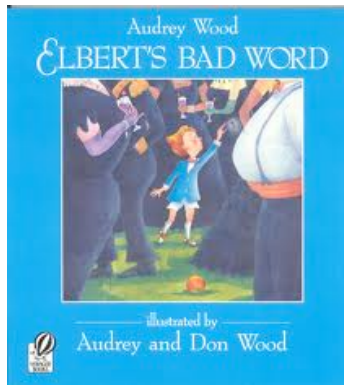
Connections:

“Rocket, why don’t you use that nose of yours to sniff out some new words?” Perhaps students can follow Rocket’s lead as they read books from their reading suitcases. Give students small sticky notes to record the interesting words they find. The children can place the sticky notes in a file folder and create their own list of interesting words. The folder becomes another word tool students can use when it’s time to write.

Use Word Tools

Elbert's Bad Word

Written by Audrey Wood...Illustrated by Audrey and Don Wood



Description:

When Elbert's toe gets hurt, a bad word jumps out of his mouth. Can he get the word to go back in?

Connections:

Young children are often aware that some words are not socially appropriate to say. Students will happily share the "bad" words they know... "stupid, hate, shut-up, darn-it and even panty hose."

This story helps to explain to children the importance of having strong words in your mind; ready to come out when you need them. For Elbert, instead of saying a bad word, he learned to say, "MY STARS! THUNDER AND LIGHTNING! RATS AND BLUE BLAZES! SUFFERING CATS! BLISTERING HOP TOADS! ZOUNDS AND GADZOOKS!" While these words might not be the exact one's students use, it could be helpful to make vocabulary lists of words that describe various kinds of emotions. This might be a good opportunity to use various word tools to find synonyms to match.