

A writing activity from

Grimm & Co



Word Play

You will need:

- The ability to listen to the activity instructions (these have been recorded, so you'll need to be able to listen to them through a computer or phone, or through headphones)
- Something to write with (probably a sheet of paper and a pencil, but you can use a computer if you prefer!)
- Access to the internet OR a dictionary and/or thesaurus
- A book (any book)

An etymologist is someone who studies the English language. Today, that's what you're going to be: an excellent eccentric etymologist!

Step one: Start off by thinking about words: words that you hear all the time; words that are spoken rarely; words that you enjoy saying. Now focus on words that you enjoy saying. Everyone has them. It's that feeling, when you're saying the word, of your mouth wrapping itself around the individual letters to form something unusual and you savour it because it sounds so lush.

Step two: Think of five words that you enjoy saying. They don't need to be long or complicated words; they can be any words at all.

- If you don't know the meaning of any of your chosen words, find out what they mean. You can do this by looking in a dictionary or going on dictionary.com on the internet.

If you struggle to come up with five words, have a look in books for inspiration or (if you have access to the internet) search *the most unusual words in the English language for kids*.

If English isn't your first language, please feel free to complete this task in your native language, or mix it up a bit. It's completely up to you.



Step three: Pick one of the words from your list and jot down the following:

- What is it about this word that makes you enjoy saying it?
- Do you use it often in everyday life?
- Which part of the word do you enjoy saying the most and why?

Step four: Once you have written your five words down in a list, have a go at involving some of the people in your home in this task. Ask them the words they enjoy saying and see your list grow! Again, if you don't know the meaning of any of these words, find out!

Step five: If you would like to make your list EVEN LONGER, grab a book (any book at all):

- Pick a number between 1 and the number of pages in the book.
- Go to that page.
- Flip forward five pages (if you cannot, then flip back five pages).
- Think of the day you were born (23rd March would be number 23) and count that many lines down the page.
- Whatever line you land on, pick one word from that line that you are drawn to. Now see if you can use a thesaurus (book or internet) to come up with synonyms for your chosen word. Add the synonyms you find interesting, to your list.
- You could repeat this exercise using a number of other books should you wish.

Step six: It's time to create a piece of writing about these words. Remember, this is all about words you enjoy saying, so you're writing here will be really effective if you feel confident enough to read it aloud, no pressure though. Your writing should include:

- Words you enjoy saying and how they make you feel when you say them
- Try and use as many words from your list as possible.
- Your writing can make sense or it can be nonsensical.
- Your writing must start with one of the words.

Step seven: Share your writing with us! If you're a member of one of our out-of-school writing groups, you should then upload your work to your Seesaw journal.

If you're accessing this activity independently, or through your school, we'd still love to share in the amazing writing you've created! You can post your work on social media, tagging us @GrimmAndCo, or email your work to grimmapothecary@gmail.com. Happy writing!