



Super Synonym Strategies

(Super: Over; above; excellent)

2nd - 4th Grades

- **Synonym Search:** Students work in pairs. They find four adjectives or nouns in a story book or text. Students write these four words on their white boards. Now, ask students to use the thesaurus and find one synonym for each word. Write the synonym beside the given word. Provide each student-pair with four 3x5 cards. Fold each card in half. Students write the given word on the front of the card. Inside the card, students write a synonym for the word. The teacher makes a master list of these synonyms.
- **Scavenger Hunt:** Ahead of time, the teacher stands the folded 3x5 cards around the room. Using the Synonym Master List from Synonym Search, the teacher says, "Find the synonym for the word "communicate." Student-pairs look for "communicate." The teacher asks the student-pair, "What is the synonym for "communicate?" The first student-pair to guess a synonym gets to keep the card. The winner is the student-pair with the most cards at the end of the game.

- **White Board Flip:** Divide the class into two teams. Provide students with individual white boards and an erasable marker. Refer to a synonym list. Call out a word. Students write the word on the front of their white board. When they finish writing, students "flip" their white boards and write a synonym for the word on the back of the white board. The first student to call out the synonym, spelled correctly, gets a point for their team. Call out the reverse synonym another time to help students memorize the synonym pair.
- **Bingo:** Provide students with Bingo Synonym cards. (These cards can be generated online.) The teacher calls out the first word of a synonym pair. Students look for its synonym. Students place a marker on the square, i.e., the teacher says, "chilly." Students place a marker on the word "cool." When a Bingo is called, students must say the synonym and its matching pair to have a win.

- **Super Synonym Stories:** Ask students to work with a partner. The idea is to rewrite a favorite children's story or fairy tale. The Three Little Pigs lends itself to this activity. The teacher will tell the story using colorful adjectives. "Once upon a time, there were three chubby little pigs . . ." Write these nouns on the white board: wolf, pigs, straw, sticks, bricks, pot, water, tail, chimney and forest. Ask students to think of adjectives to describe the nouns. Write these adjectives and nouns on the white board: *big bad wolf, chubby little pigs, yellow thin straw, long brown sticks, strong clay bricks, large black pot, hot boiling water, long bushy tail, strong chimney, and dark green forest.*

Now, students will substitute synonyms for the adjectives. Use a thesaurus to find wild and crazy synonyms! For example, the *big, bad wolf* can become the *enormous, naughty wolf*. Share the stories when students have finished.

- **Roundabout:** Give each student a piece of paper with an adjective or noun written on it. Students take their pencils and go from person to person asking for a synonym that matches their word. At each person, they must think of a synonym that hasn't been used. After one minute, see which students have the most synonyms. Recruit two students to be the judges. They will determine if the words which were added were actually synonyms. Play the game again, asking students to write another word on their paper.
- **Memory:** Provide each student-pair with ten 3x5 cards. Fold the cards in half. On one side, write a word. On the other side, write a synonym for the word. Tear the cards in half on the fold. Turn over the cards. Arrange the cards (20) in a 5x4 grid. Students then play Memory. Turn over a card. Read the card. Turn over a second card. Read the card. Are the cards a synonym match? If they are a match, the student keeps the cards and gets another turn. If they are not a match, turn both cards over. The next person gets a turn. The object is to remember the position of each card.
- **Synonym Hunt:** Provide each student-pair with an index card. Fold the index cards in half. Students write a word on the front of the card and its synonym on the inside of the card. Tear the index cards in half at the fold. The teacher collects all the cards and mixes them. Next, she gives each student a card. The object is to challenge students to find the classmate who has the matching synonym card. When everyone has found their partner, ask each pair to read their synonyms to the class.
- **Synonym Password:** Divide the class into two teams. Students play this game in pairs. Each pair chooses a word from a list of synonyms. The first student-pair tells the class the word they have chosen. "The word is *tiny*." The pair lets the class guess up to three synonym password clues, one word at a time (*small, minute, teensy*). Team points are given for each correct synonym password clue.

Synonym List

chilly	cool	above	over
glad	happy	shove	push
unhappy	sad	peeked	looked
tug	pull	seat	chair
small	little	message	note
repair	fix	beautiful	pretty
rush	hurry	speedy	fast
street	road	speak	talk
friend	pal	softly	quietly

noisy	loud	correct	right
simple	easy	tremble	shake
thin	skinny	mad	angry
dad	father	stone	rock
pick	choose	ill	sick
aim	point	begin	start
forest	woods	insect	bug
sleepy	tired	afraid	scared
breezy	windy	laugh	giggle