

A Christmas Carol | Word Bank Bluff

Pre-Show Activity | Grades K-5

Alignment

- Learning Objective
 - Students explore new vocabulary through imagination and reasoning, learning to infer meaning and appreciate expressive language.

NOTE: This activity has been aligned with TEKS and [Universal Design for Learning](#). Demonstrations of Learning and TEKS can be found at the end of this document.

Prep Work

- Materials
 - Word bank (included)
 - Blank paper or whiteboards
 - Markers, pencils, or crayons
 - Visual scoreboard
- Suggested adjustments for UDL alignment
 - Use a visible Word Wall to post words and reveal meanings after each round.
 - Encourage acting out or drawing made-up definitions.
 - Support emergent bilingual students with stems: “I think it means ____ because it sounds/feels like ____.”

Step 1 | Game Play

- Pass out blank papers and writing utensils to students.
- Read aloud the vocabulary words from the word bank and write it on the board or type it on the projector screen.
- Have students write a made-up definition of the word on their paper and turn it in.

Step 2 | Score Keeping

- Competitive Version:
 - Students take turns going head-to-head. The definitions are read out loud (without revealing who wrote them).
 - The class votes on their favorite. At the end of the round, scoring goes:
 - One point if the class voted for their definition. In a tie, both students get a point.
 - Two points if their definition is close to or matches the dictionary definition.
 - Reserve harder words for a second round.
- Low Spotlight Version:
 - Students work in groups to define the terms in words, pictures, or tableau (frozen picture).

- Groups take turns sharing their definitions – and how they came to that conclusion - before the real definition is revealed.
- If you would like to keep score in this version, you can assign a point to:
 - 2 points to the definition closest to the real one.
 - 1 point to the wrong definition with the best defense.

Demonstration of Learning

- Grades K-2
 - Students demonstrate comprehension through visual, physical, or emotional cues.
 - Students can identify or act out a matching word when prompted.
- Grades 3-5
 - Students accurately connect words to definitions, contexts, and emotions.
 - Students use at least one new word appropriately in discussion or performance.

TEKS

- Theatre K-5
 - (1A-C), (2A-C), (4A-B) – Develop self, imagination, and concentration; express ideas through dramatic play and performance; respond to and evaluate theatre experiences.
- ELA K-5
 - (1A-C), (2A-D), (3B), (6A) – Develop active listening and speaking skills; apply comprehension strategies to make and confirm predictions; use and expand vocabulary; engage in shared reading and writing to express ideas clearly.

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K-2 Word Bank

Note: Use 3-4 words per round.

Humbug	A trick or something meant to fool people; nonsense
Spirit	The energy or feelings of a person; a ghost
Gleaming	Shining brightly with a clean or polished look
Feast	A large, special meal
Surplus	Having more than what is needed; extra
Gruel	Thin, watery food (like an oatmeal soup)
Fate	The idea that things happen because they are meant to happen
Dismal	Very sad, gloomy, or depressing
Wage	The money a person earns for working
Stingy	Not wanting to share or spend money; selfish with giving

3-5 Word Bank

Note: Use 5-6 words per round.

Ignorance	Not knowing something, a lack of understanding
Apparition	A ghost or spirit someone sees
Cantankerous	Grumpy, angry, or hard to get along with
Destitute	Extremely poor, not having what you need to live
Fettered	Chained up or held back; unable to move freely
Workhouse	A place where very poor people had to work in exchange for food and shelter
Foreclosure	When a bank takes back a house or property because the owner can't pay for it
Multitude	A large number of people or things
Melancholy	Deep sadness or gloom
Anonymous	Without a name; identity unknown
Covetous	Wanting something that belongs to someone else; greedy
Solitary	Alone, without others
Undigested	Still sitting in your stomach (not yet digested)
Avarice	Extreme greed for money or wealth
Humbug	A trick or something meant to fool people; nonsense