

Grade: 6	Strand: Writing	Concept: Using a thesaurus to choose effective words
Description of Task:	Students use an electronic thesaurus to choose effective words to make a story more interesting to the reader.	
Expectations:	6e43 use a thesaurus to expand their vocabulary; 6e57 use a varied vocabulary and a range of sentence structures to add interest to their remarks;	
Software Type:	Word Processor AppleWorks 6	
Computer Skills Prerequisite	Students should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Locate and open the template file</li> <li>• Type in text boxes</li> <li>• Save and print their work</li> </ul>	
Student Instructions: (for teacher)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Show students a writing sample and have them analyze and critique it.</li> <li>2. Have them share some of their observations with the class.</li> <li>3. Discuss how word choice affects a piece of writing, and ask them where they can look to find new words (e.g. their reading, other texts, the thesaurus).</li> <li>4. Explain that the students are going to practise using the thesaurus to replace words in a story to make it more interesting.</li> </ol>	
Teacher Notes:	<p>Teachers may wish to remind students about synonyms before beginning this activity.</p> <p>Two activity templates are provided. In 6W2_thesaurus_template1.cwk, students must find synonyms for a list of commonly-used words. In 6W2_thesaurus_template2.cwk, students use the thesaurus to improve word choice in a paragraph.</p> <p>Related offline activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students can complete the activity using pencil and paper.</li> <li>• Students can write their own paragraphs and trade them to correct one another's errors.</li> <li>• Students can make a database with good and poor writing samples to compare to their own work.</li> <li>• Students who completed the activity off-line could compare their work to those who completed it using a pencil and paper to examine the strengths and weaknesses of both methods.</li> </ul>	
	Activity Template File: Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> Student Instruction BLM: Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
Assessment:	<p>Did the students replace all of the words appropriately? (curriculum)</p> <p>Did the students recognize common synonyms? (curriculum)</p> <p>Were the students able to compare their methods accurately? (curriculum)</p> <p>Was the new sample more interesting? (curriculum)</p> <p>Did there substitutions make sense? (curriculum)</p>	