

Outstanding in the Rain, a Whole Story with Holes

By Frank Viva

Wordplay activities:

- Work with the “inside” of the “inside-outside” vocabulary technique for figuring out new words. (*cream* inside of *scream*) Find a word inside a larger word.
This might work well using a classroom word wall, vocabulary list, or words from another content area.
Create two sentences that go together. Use the smaller word (inside word) in the first sentence.
Fold a piece of paper in half like a book and cut a hole somewhere in the middle of the front. Write the first sentence so that the “inside” word falls in the hole. Then open it up and write the second sentence using the “inside” word as part of the larger word in the second sentence.
Note: Kids should see that usually the inside word helps with pronunciation, and sometimes it also helps with meaning.
- Use small words to build larger words. Example: *me* > *met* > *metal*; *out* > *outer* > *shout*; *etc.* This is fun with word tiles.
- Introduce the prefix OUT from the title. Share other words with this prefix.
- Identify the rhymes in the text. Write each rhyming pair on a large sheet of paper. Then post these 6 pages around the room. Divide the class into 6 groups and rotate around the room, each group adding more rhymes to the lists. Share.