



Thinksheet

Rising 2nd Grade

The Word Collector By Peter H. Reynolds

Classroom Activities

[The Word Collectors](#)- Visit the dynamic website!

[Resources — The Word Collectors](#) Resources for school, library, community and home

The Word Collector by Peter H. Reynolds is the story of a boy named Jerome who loves collecting words. Jerome collects all different kinds of words: big, small and words he sees or hears. He puts the words he collects into a scrapbook. One day, Jerome decides to bring his collection of words to the top of a hill. He lets the words go and they float down to the world below. Children see the words and start picking them up. It leaves Jerome speechless to see how much joy his collection brings others. This heartwarming book about Jerome's collection is sure to inspire students to start collecting their own words and expanding their vocabulary.

Before Reading

Ask: What are some of YOUR favorite words? Do you have any favorite collections?

Show: Read some of the words on the cover with me; how would you describe these words? How else can you describe them? Jerome loves words so much, he writes them down on pieces of paper, cards, and in a journal. Do you think Jerome is being generous when he shares his favorite words? Why or why not? What is kind about asking others to share their favorite words?

Connect: What words did you think about as you read some of Jerome's words? What words would you give Jerome?

During Reading

Ask: How do you think Jerome feels when he finds a word he likes? What does he like about them? What does he do with them? How do his words make things better?

Show: Look at the page when he sends up his words in the wind. Why did he share his words? Why did it make him happy?

Connect: When Jerome puts words together, he realizes some of the simplest are the most powerful. What are 5 simple words that are powerful for connecting and understanding others?

After Reading

Ask: Words have power. They help us communicate, make poetry, and make things better. The more words he knew the better he could tell others what he was thinking and feeling. How do words help us get along? Is Jerome's heavy cart of words a burden or richness? Why?

Show: Look at the words on the pages. What are some words you like the sound of? What are words you'd like to know the meaning of? What are some words that make the world a better place?

Connect: What do you think and feel about the job of words after reading this book? How do you plan to use words to make a difference? Are you going to be a "Word Collector?" Why or why not?



These resources were prepared by GELF's Educator Advisory Council, a group of 28 Tennessee educators, to encourage engagement with the K-3 Home Library books distributed to students over the summer.

Access more resources at BookersBookClub.org/Activities





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Activities:

1. Jerome is NOT the only one who loves words. Find out who else is a “Word Collector.” Watch this YouTube video of some famous people telling why they love words. President Obama said that words have power. Talk about what that means.
2. What are YOUR TOP TWENTY WORDS? Create your own picture book or video and illustrate the words you like.
3. A “noun” is a word that identifies people, places, or things. What are your TOP TEN NOUNS for each of these categories?
4. Write a poem to “tell the world who you are and how you will make the world better.”
5. Write a description of this book. What do you want others to know about Jerome and words?
6. <https://noveleffect.com/2022/05/11/the-word-collector-printable-activity/>

Word Collector Game:

- Grab your pencil and Post-it notes or tiny slips of card stock or cut-up index cards.
- Take a walk around your house, out in nature, or in a town or city. Don’t forget unassuming spaces like basements or bathrooms. Words can be found anywhere!
- Collect words as you go, writing each one on an individual card or note. Get lots of nouns and verbs, and descriptive words, too.
- When you’re done with your walk, do what Jerome does in *Word Collector* and start “stringing your words together.” Don’t think too much, and let random and surprising combinations happen.
- Find a fun container to keep your collection. Keep extra blank cards around so that you can add to your word collection when new ones come to you.
- Teachers, read *Word Collector* to your classes and collect words around a topic of study or around a character trait you are trying to encourage, like kindness.
- To build vocabulary, collect the most obscure words that you see and don’t know. Engage students to do the same.



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