

intelligent (smart)

adjective

Word Story

One of the Wordly girls had trouble getting up in the morning. One night she had an intelligent idea. She decided to sleep in the clothes she would wear the next day. Then she would save time pondering what to wear and getting dressed. She thought it was an intelligent idea; her mother thought it was ridiculous.

Someone who is *intelligent* is smart.

Talk About It

- ✧ What intelligent ideas have you had lately?
- ✧ What are the characteristics of an intelligent person?
- ✧ There are different ways to be intelligent. Some people are smart about how others think and feel, some are smart about math or science, some are good at remembering facts. How are you intelligent?

Picture It

Draw a picture of someone who is intelligent. Tell why that person is smart.

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peculiar (strange)

adjective

Word Story

One night Mr. Wordly heard a peculiar noise in the family room. It was late, and the children were in bed. Mr. Wordly looked around but he didn't see anything unusual. Then he heard a sound, looked up, and saw the neighbor's kitten looking down from the skylight screen! She'd gotten up on the roof and was peeking in.

When something is *peculiar*, it is strange.

Talk About It

- ✧ Has anything peculiar happened to you recently?
- ✧ Tell about something that would be peculiar to see or hear in our classroom.
- ✧ What other words have a meaning similar to *peculiar* or *strange*? (odd, curious, weird, unusual)

Act It Out

Pretend you hear a peculiar noise. Are you mystified, frightened, interested, or amused? Show how you react. Tell us what you imagined to put on such a realistic performance.

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demonstrate (show)

verb

Word Story

The Wordly girl's class was working on making presentations to the class. Each student was to demonstrate how to do something simple and familiar, like making a sandwich. The teacher said that because they were showing something easy, they should feel less nervous about talking in front of the group.

To *demonstrate* is to show.

Talk About It

- ✦ Sometimes I demonstrate something as I teach you how to do it. What have I demonstrated lately?
- ✦ What could you demonstrate to a friend to help them learn a new skill?

Do It

Demonstrate one of the following: tying your shoe, doing a push-up, making a bow or curtsy, or doing a somersault. Then demonstrate, while telling how to do it.

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chef (cook)

noun

Word Story

Mrs. Wordly loves to cook. She enjoys creating new and interesting dishes for her family to try. The neighbors are always anxious to sample her new recipes. Mrs. Wordly's children often tell her she could be a famous chef.

A *chef* is a professional cook.

Talk About It

- ✦ Who's the best chef in your family?
- ✦ Do you ever help your mom or dad cook? What chef's jobs do you like to help with?
- ✦ Have you ever seen a chef at a restaurant? What do chefs usually wear?

Act It Out

Pretend to be a chef. Pantomime doing something in the kitchen. We'll try to guess what you are doing. You could be stirring a pot, putting something in the oven, breaking an egg, sifting flour, or pouring milk into a bowl.

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cautious (careful)

adjective

Word Story

Some of the Wordly children like to ride their scooters to school each day. Their mom allows them to do so because they are all cautious riders. They wear their helmets, listen for cars, and look around them as they ride. They always stop at every corner and look both ways before crossing the street.

Someone who is *cautious* is careful.

Talk About It

- ✧ Are you ever cautious? What activities do you do with caution, or care?
- ✧ What are some signs you see on the street that remind drivers to be cautious? (yellow lights, pedestrian crossing signs, speed limit signs, watch for rocks, slippery when wet)

Make a List

Let's make a list of things that we should be cautious about.

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famished (hungry)

adjective

Word Story

The little Wordly girl forgot her lunch box one morning. At lunchtime she was too bashful to tell her teacher that she had no lunch, so she just didn't eat anything. By the time she got home that afternoon, she was famished! She was so hungry she could hardly wait to eat something.

When you are *famished*, you are very hungry.

Talk About It

- ✧ Have you ever been famished? Why were you so hungry?
- ✧ Did you ever hear someone say, "I'm so hungry I could eat a horse"? What does that mean?
- ✧ How do you feel when you're famished?

Make a List

Make a list of what you would want to eat if you were famished. How much would you need to eat to make you feel better? Is your list realistic or is it ridiculous?

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sprint (run)

verb

Word Story

The Wordly boy sprinted to the corner to catch the school bus. He'd overslept, and now he was late.

Sprinting is running fast.

Talk About It

- ✦ What sports involve sprinting, or running fast for short distances?
- ✦ Do you like to sprint?
- ✦ *Sprint* is a word for fast running. Can you think of a word for slower running? (jog, trot, plod)

Do It

Let's mark out a 25-yard running lane on the playground. Then we'll take turns sprinting down the lane.

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overcast (cloudy)

adjective

Word Story

Saturday morning was overcast and gloomy. The clouds hung low and dark over the Wordlys' house. This, the Wordlys decided, was just the kind of morning for staying in bed, snug and warm.

Overcast means cloudy.

Talk About It

- ✦ How would you describe the sky today? Is it overcast or clear?
- ✦ If you walked outside with your eyes closed, how could you tell if it was an overcast or a sunny day?
- ✦ What do you like about overcast days?

Picture It

Draw a picture of an overcast day. Use many shades of white, gray, and black to show how the sky looks.

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