

APRIL



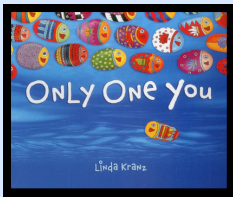
Tip

of the Month

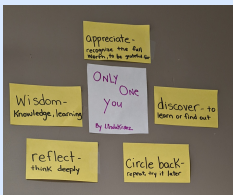


JOYcabulary

## Vocabulary Spinners!



Since our presentation at Teachers College at Columbia University's Saturday Reunion, JOYcabulary has been receiving requests for more information about the spinners used with a vocabulary wall. Spinners increase interaction with previously taught words. It allows the wall to become more than a reference, turning it into an interactive station.



You may wish to divide your vocabulary wall into two parts: one with words separated in **alphabetical order**; the other with a **picture of the cover of a recent read aloud with the taught words** and student friendly definitions surrounding it. In my own classroom, I attached the words with Velcro dots so the words could easily be rearranged.



The spinners ask students to select or move the words for different purposes. Here is the spinner that initiated this work!



## Let's Play Together: How to Use the Vocabulary Wall

Spinners were changed to keep up interest and to support current instruction.

The spinners might ask the students to:

- Bring down 5 words that mean to move (semantic cluster)
- Bring down 5 adjectives (parts of speech)
- Bring down 5 words that are synonyms
- Bring down 5 words that mean almost the same thing and arrange them in order from weakest to strongest (intensity array)

# Let's Play Together: How to Use the Vocabulary Wall

- Choose one word and use it in a 7-Up sentence (a sentence with 7 or more words - leads to more complex sentences and avoids simple sentences that do not indicate the child knew the meaning: *I am famished.*)
- Choose *two* words and use them in *one* sentence.
- Choose two words and tell your partner how they are similar or opposite.
- Partner chooses one word. You find either a synonym or an antonym.
- Bring down 5 words that have a vowel team.
- Bring down 5 words that have two syllables.
- Bring down 3 words that have a digraph.

This work is always done in partnerships or quads to support oral languages and function as a check on each other.

## Tips for Thought

- You can purchase spinners at Really Good Stuff, Oriental Trading, even Temu. Some are magnetic and others have suction cups. Children can make their own spinner with a pencil and large paper clip.
- Section your spinners in different ways: traditional pie-shaped, swirls, pinwheel, or stars.

Welcome April! We wish you a month filled with poetry, laughter & JOY!

Spread the Word. Spread the Joy.

Visit: [www.joycabulary.com](http://www.joycabulary.com)

