



**Apple  
Bites: Lessons  
from  
Teachers**

### Word Search Vocabulary

We use the word search puzzle in the newspaper as a vocabulary activity. To start, I call on a child to read the words out loud. We then figure out together what each word means. We make up sentences, give definitions, synonyms and antonyms. We continue doing so until we've gone over all of the words. Children cannot start the word search puzzle until we've gone over every word. I have to admit that sometimes I haven't known a word and we've all had to go to the computer ([www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com)) and look up the word. But then children get to see how to use an online dictionary.

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This activity addresses the following national standards:

#### **Language Arts**

#1 Students read a wide range of print and nonprint texts to ... acquire new information. #3 Students apply a wide range of strategies to comprehend, interpret, evaluate and appreciate texts. They draw on their prior experience, their interactions with other readers and writers, their knowledge of word meaning, ... their word-identification strategies and their understanding of textual features (e.g., sound-letter correspondence, sentence structure ...).

Source: National Council of Teachers of English/International Reading Association List of Standards for the English Language Arts, 1996.



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