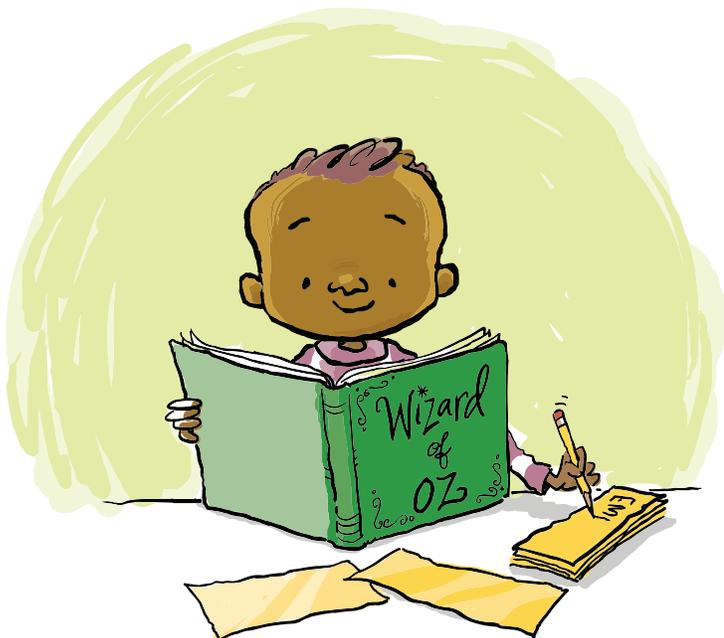


Activities for *The Word Collector*

COLLECT ANYTHING!

In *The Word Collector*, Jerome collects all kinds of words. Have students consider whether being a “collector” is part of their identity and in what ways.

- Do they collect some of the things at the beginning of the book like bugs, coins, stamps, rocks, art, baseball cards, or comic books? Do they collect other things? Brainstorm as a class things you can collect that money can't buy, like words, hugs, memories, and bits of nature.
- Create a class list of these types of collections and remind students throughout the year of ways we can all be collectors just by paying attention to the world around us.



WORD COLLECTING ADVENTURE

Jerome is attuned to words in the world by looking and listening for words that catch his attention.

- Invite students to jot down words they often see or hear. Have them share their favorite words on sentence strips to post around the room on bulletin boards or to hang words along a clothesline across the classroom.
- Encourage students to keep collecting by listening for words that speak to them during read alouds and by noticing words in books they read and out in the world.
- Build in weekly time for students to share new words they want to add to the class collection.

WORDS AS GIFTS TO THE WORLD

Brainstorm as a class ways you can create gifts to the world simply by sharing words in new ways. Emphasize the ways that Jerome notices how the simplest words are often the most powerful: *I understand. I'm sorry. Thank you. You matter.*

- As a class, create a Wondrous Words bulletin board in the hallway for others to see and add on to.
- Create a path of words for others to find using chalk on a sidewalk or playground.
- Have students think of a special word that describes someone else in the class for a word exchange event at the end of each week or month.
- Start a school-wide campaign for kindness to spread empathy by having students post positive, gratitude-filled words. Let students know that their words can be gifts to the world to make others happy.

POWERFUL WORDS, POWERFUL KID

Jerome stands with his arms in the air with a swirl of words around him on the book jacket. This is called a power pose and has been shown to make people feel more confident and powerful when they stand in this way.

- Do an online search with students for images of other power poses, such as runners crossing a finish line, superheroes with their hands at their hips, or people with one arm raised in victory.
- Invite students to try out different power poses that make them feel powerful. Once they choose one, take a photo of each student in a power pose standing against a background of words they select or holding up one of their favorite words.
- Throughout the year, when students need a confidence boost, invite them to stand in their power pose just like Jerome to re-energize themselves and to grow their courage.

The Word Collector Worksheet

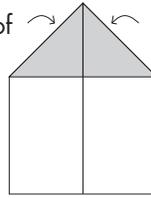
PART I: PAPER AIRPLANE

First, write a word or words you want someone else to find. Next, fold your sheet of paper into a paper airplane by following these directions:

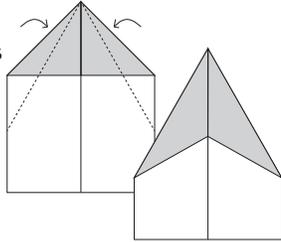
1. Fold the paper in half vertically.



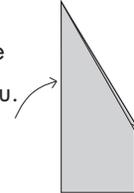
2. Unfold the paper and fold each of the top corners into the center line.



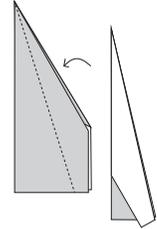
3. Fold the top edges into the center line.



4. Fold the plane in half toward you.



5. Fold the wings down, matching the top edges up with the bottom edge of the body.



After creating your paper airplanes, find a way to share them, either by displaying them on the wall or on a clothesline, or even by launching them outside!



PART II: MY WORD COLLECTION

I am a word collector. On your word collection adventure, jot down the words you see and hear. Add to your collections words you see in books that you want to remember.

Words I See in the World	Words I Hear in the World	Words I See in Books

Looking at your list, re-sort your words by noticing which words are big words, little words, and two-syllable treats.

Big Words	Little Words	Two-Syllable Treats