

Hi ALTA PA!

This past month has been a bit of a firehose of information with the ALTA conference, followed by a 3 Day Intensive **Take Flight** Training! So much great information...but I definitely need some time to process all of it.

But, I do want to share a few take-aways from my training... and I will be sending more in my next newsletter.

One way I unwind everyday is to do the Wordle with my 15 year old son. We actually do it separately, and then share to see who had the fewest attempts.

Yesterday, I was *really* struggling ...and down to my last try. I did a quick scan of my remaining choices...punched in the letters...and hit ENTER. As I waited for the gratifying green letter tile flip, *aka* Vanna White & "Wheel of Fortune", **I got it WRONG....whaaaat!**

NO lights.
NO confetti drop.
NO music.

I What's App'd my result to my son...by the way, the Wordle was: *being*

Later that day, my first grader got off the bus, and I told her about my Wordle defeat.

She plays Wordle every morning with her classmates and teacher. She laughed when I gave her the dramatic play-by-play...and then announced, 'Henry, her classmate, got the word this morning...and that he was *'being smart.'*

At this moment, my 17 year-old daughter with dyslexia piped up.

"How can 1st graders figure out these words?
I didn't even know most of them until 7th grade!"

Thankfully, Saskia is now in a learning environment where she is taught by teachers who are certified to teach every subject to struggling readers.

But here is the task we as Certified Academic Language Therapists have.

How do we give our incredible students rich language so that they can:

- access their ideas and communicate them effectively?

I recently discovered www.onelook.com ... this super-charged dictionary/thesaurus not only gives you words *related* to the word you input...

- you can even specify words, for example...with *ow* in the middle.

If I input, *strength*, I get loads of related words...but I also learn:

- the history of the word...
- the connection between *strength* & *string* (*hamstring*), and related expressions, like, '*pulling strings*,' and '*heart-strings*,' and
- an age-old April Fool's joke of leaving a bag of money on the sidewalk only to tug 'a *string*, (attached to the moneybag) out of reach as they bend over to pick it up!

What a great way to include *Verbal Expression* for our kids who often need these expressions explained! Goodbye trying to think of one on the spot! LOL.

And no need to rummage around for that etymology book on your shelf *hoping the word is in there!*

<https://www.etymonline.com/word/strength>

But there's more!

My daughter has jumbled words into unique combinations from the beginning. We fondly use these original words and refer to them as 'Saskia speak', or we say, "*That one* is going into the 'Saskia's dictionary'!"

www.onelook.com actually has a wonderful tool to make even more *jumbles* called *Port Manteaux*.

Why does this even matter?

Well, for one, it's a great icebreaker! Talk about taking the pressure off of reading and creating a master list of nonsense words that actually make you laugh!

Just input 2 words, and the algorithm magically identifies different words related to these 2 words...and then creates a plethora of combinations.

Check out some options for: happy + sandwich. I think my favorites are:

- **mouthfulicious & sandwichcited**

<https://www.onelook.com/pm/#?w1=happy%20&w2=sandwich>

My daughter and I inputted a bunch of words and had a good laugh! Wordle *isn't her thing*, but she can have just as much fun using *Port Manteaux* with www.Onelook.com.

And the BIGGEST win... *besides laughter, joy, strength, power & originality*...is that EVERYONE can play. Imagine your whole class:

- making combinations of nonsense words and
- everyone laughing together and

- not worrying about making a mistake!

I'd love to hear some great combinations your kids come up with in class with this *inclusive word* game... **Oh!...and Onelook works for Spanish words too!**

Below are some resources I hope you find useful and some ideas in case you need some extra's in class.

ALTA Upcoming Events:

Saturday, June 11: Part 1/ 2

Reconnecting to Mindfulness

Members, \$10

Non-Members, \$15

<https://members.altaread.org/event-4756947?CalendarViewType=1&SelectedDate=5/18/2022>

- Conference recording will be available in the coming weeks if you missed the conference.

Resource: Ox, House, Stick, by Don Robb

A great tool to teach the history of our language!

https://www.amazon.com/s?k=ox%2C+house%2C+stick+the+history+of+our+alphabet&prefix=Ox%2C+Hou%2Caps%2C64&ref=nb_sb_ss_mission-aware-v1_1_7

Activity:

The Take Flight offered an excellent Narrative Comprehension based on Aunt Isabel Tells A Good One, by Kate Duke. If you like it, I can send you additional ideas:)

https://www.amazon.com/Aunt-Isabel-Tells-Picture-Puffins/dp/0140505342/ref=pd_bxgy_img_sc_cl_1/144-0226063-7225934?pd_rd_w=jvFMO&pf_rd_p=6b3eefea-7b16-43e9-bc45-2e332cbf99da&pf_rd_r=QX8MD3F1W07ZMREAP5S5&pd_rd_r=3f0052bb-8ed8-4573-9edd-b2e383024ae6&pd_rd_wg=pNvYG&pd_rd_i=0140505342&psc=1

LOOK:

Title/Author

INVESTIGATE:

Who? Where? When?

What is the problem?

Why is this a problem?

How is this problem solved?

SOLVE:

Vocabulary (www.onelook.com)

SUMMARY:

What do you think would happen if _____?

How would you compare/contrast _____?

How do you think _____ could have been prevented?

How were _____ and _____ the same?

How would you interpret _____?

Great TikTok Teachers:

I love finding out about topics my students are interested in...*and they're usually not about grammar;*).

Once my daughter started to experience subjects (outside of the textbook), her whole world opened up.

Check out how a Michigan high school Physics teacher explains **Bernoulli's Principle** & got over 2 million views in this *2-3minute video @wolf_science*

https://www.tiktok.com/foryou?feed_mode=v1&is_from_webapp=v1&item_id=7094365851163331886&web_id=6906501646038566405#!/@wolf_science/video/7094365851163331886

Know a great TikTok teacher? Please send me their info!

Have a great Port Manteaux word? Please share!

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