



Using a dictionary

CAPS: Grade 4, Term 3



Writing and Presenting

Records words and their meanings in a personal dictionary:
Uses drawings or sentences using the words or explanations to show the meaning, etc.

Note

As you know, in a dictionary words are arranged alphabetically. Read this extract from *The Feast* written by Jude Daly, and start your personal dictionary today:

Your teacher will show you how to make your own personal dictionary.

Papa Smuts was a fisherman. But, fish were not as plentiful as they used to be and some days he came home empty handed. Then poor Papa Smuts would feel really downhearted. That's when Mama Smuts would give him a big hug and say, "We'll make ends meet." And somehow they always did because no one could grow redder tomatoes, greener peppers, crunchier carrots and crispier cabbage than Papa Smuts, with the help of his children.

"We'll make ends meet" is an expression that means: "We will manage with what we have."



Using a personal dictionary to remember new words

Example

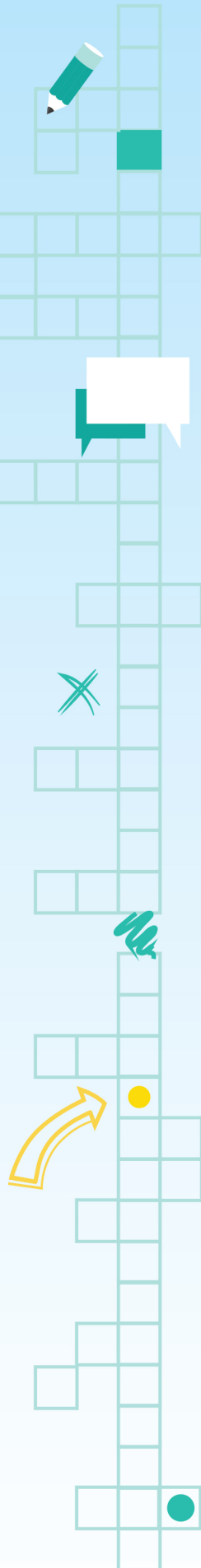
These are the underlined words from the extract that might be new to you:

plentiful

downhearted

crunchier

crispier





Breaking down words to find the root of the word

Example

plentiful = plenty + ful

downhearted = down + heart + ed

crunchier = crunch + y + er

crispier = crisp + y + er

Arranging words in alphabetical order with their meaning

Example

crisp – a sharp sound when chewed;



crunchy – same as crisp



downhearted - sad

plentiful – a lot of

Read this book review before doing the activities:

The Singing Chameleon

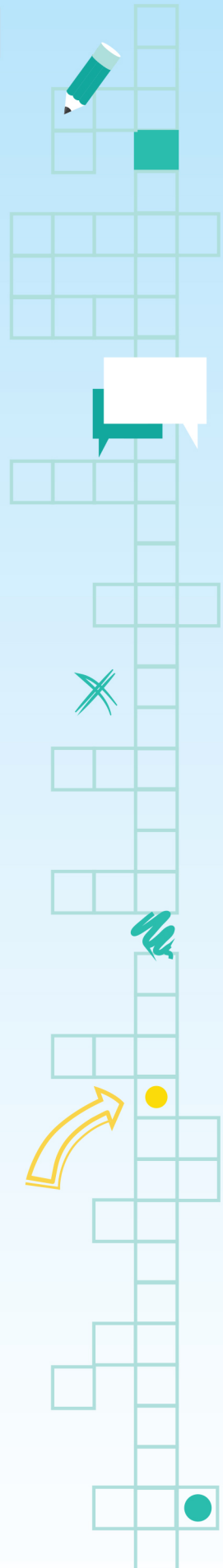
“Chameleon, you’re so ugly. You’re a **disgrace** to us all!” is the continual cry of the river community.

Over time, Chameleon comes to believe these cruel words. Lonely and **hopeless**, he **dreads** the **dawning** of each new day. But his luck changes when he meets a lark and an old man who set in motion events that **transform** him. *The Singing Chameleon* is an **inspirational** and **compelling** retelling of a Malawian tale by **internationally-respected** author and storyteller, Gcina Mhlope, with big and bright **illustrations** by well-known artist, Kalle Becker. The **insecurity** of Chameleon and the unkind behaviour of the river community will touch the hearts of readers, both young and old.



The book review is a fable about a singing chameleon. Help Themba write out all the words in bold in alphabetical order. Find out what each word means, so that Themba can understand the review a bit better. The first one has been done for you.

WORD	MEANING
① <u>compelling</u>	<u>Grabbing someone's attention in a powerful</u> <u>vway.</u>
② _____	_____
③ _____	_____
④ _____	_____
⑤ _____	_____
⑥ _____	_____
⑦ _____	_____
⑧ _____	_____
⑨ _____	_____
⑩ _____	_____





Activity 2

Copy all the words from Activity 1. Next to each word, write its **part of speech**: noun, verb, adjective or adverb. The first one has been done for you.

Look in a dictionary to help you find the part of speech of each word. If you can put 'an', 'a' or 'the' before the word, it is a noun.

WORD	PART OF SPEECH
① <i>compelling</i>	<i>adjective</i>
② _____	_____
③ _____	_____
④ _____	_____
⑤ _____	_____
⑥ _____	_____
⑦ _____	_____
⑧ _____	_____
⑨ _____	_____
⑩ _____	_____

Teacher Tip

Allow pupils to create their own personal dictionaries to link with this lesson. They can use a 72-page A5 exercise book. Write a new letter of the alphabet every two or three pages from A – Z. One page may be used for less frequent letters such as K, Q, V, X and Z. Pupils may draw in their definitions or write sentences to define words; the main idea is to make it their own, so that they will remember the spelling and meaning of words. Suffixes and prefixes plus base words are important to incorporate into dictionary work. http://www.education.com/activity/article/build_vocabulary_prefixes_suffixes_third/. Download this pdf to read the whole story of *The Feast* by Jude Daly: http://nalibali.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/The_Feast.Storycard.English.final_.pdf

