



A Wrinkle in Time

fun activities

What's in a Word?

In the book *A Wrinkle in Time* the character of Aunt Beast struggles to find meaning in words alone. She warns Meg “*don't try to use words. You're just fighting yourself and me. Think about what they are.*” (page 210)

Did you know that about 80 percent of what we understand in a typical conversation is determined through our body language, not our words. That means the expressions we make, the tone of our voice and even our hand gestures communicate far more to others than simply what we say. Consider these emotions that we convey to others. How would you show these feelings if you couldn't use any words? Write a list of the ways you could communicate these complex emotions without being able to speak. Then, be prepared to show, not tell, your classmates what you feel.

- Anger
- Happiness
- Sadness
- Fear
- Excitement
- Pride
- Embarrassment

Are words enough to express all that you feel and believe? Why or why not? Write a journal entry that shares why it is important to also rely on other means of communication. What about texting? Can you accurately express all that you want to say with just written words? Then, consider why it may have been hard for Meg to describe Mrs. Whatsit, Mrs. Who and Mrs. Which using only her words. What was it about these creatures that made using words insufficient?

*This activity meets the following official State of Florida standard(s):
LA.FS.5.SL.2.5, LAFS.5.W.1.1, LAFS.FW.2.4, and TH.5.C.1.2.*

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