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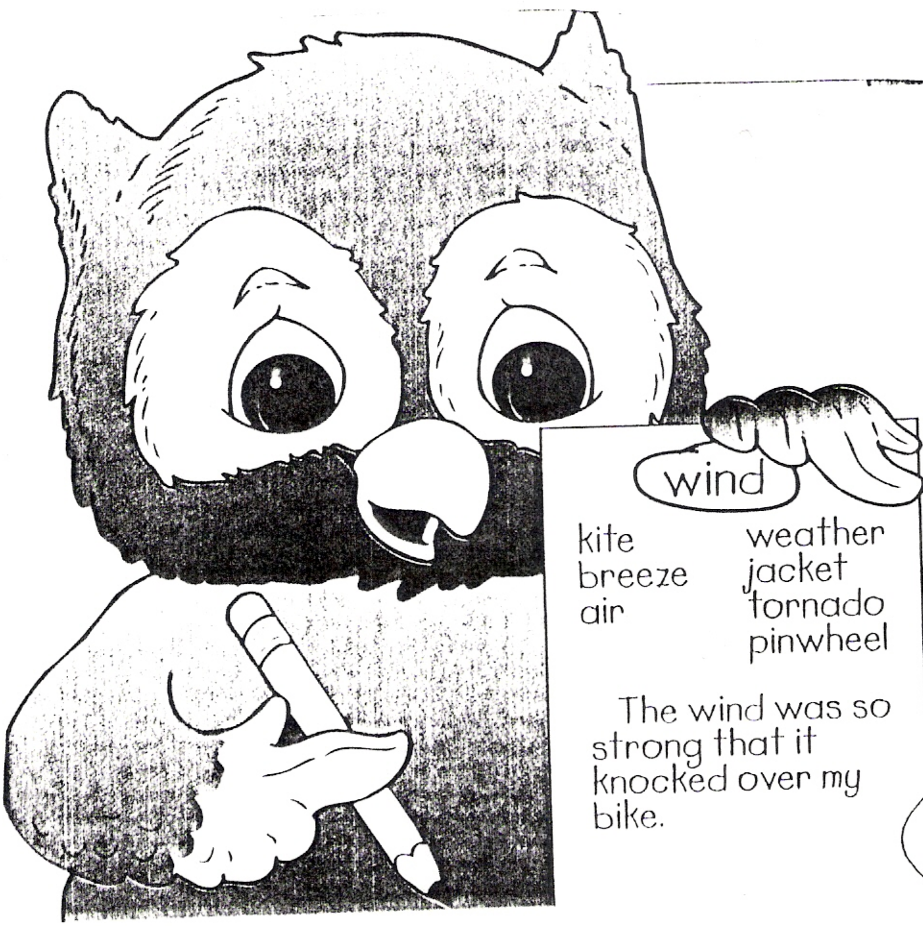


## Lots of Connections

**Skill: building on background knowledge**

What's in a word? That depends on whom you ask! Give each student a half sheet of paper. On the board, write a word that is relevant to a chosen topic of study or a literature selection. Instruct each youngster to write the word near the top of her paper and then circle it. Ask her to list several words that come to mind when she reads the circled word. Then have her write a sentence with it. After every student completes her writing, pair students. Have the students in each twosome compare their lists and sentences. Next, compile students' words into one list on the board, writing each word only once. Prompt a class discussion to explore how students' words relate to the featured word. Wow! One word says a lot!

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