

Snowball Charades



Reading/Writing practice for every grade

1. Divide your group into two teams.
2. Each team/student should brainstorm a list of as many words and phrases related to winter as possible. Very young students can dictate words to the teacher. Lower grade students can write down single words (snow, tree, shiver) and older students will write down phrases and sentences (usually with an adjective/verb and a noun to help the actors ex. A shivering elf.--Or-- A girl is sledding.)
If you have students with limited English you would prepare a long list of possible words and phrases they could act out. You would submit that with your lesson modification- make sure to include related academic vocabulary words when possible. You could also challenge them to look up words they know in Spanish to find the English equivalent and then act those out.
3. Have the students write each of these on small slips of paper and fold papers in half.
4. Each team's papers should then be placed in two separate containers. Call on one player at a time to draw a paper from the opposite team's container, read it to themselves, and act out the word, phrase, or sentence given. If the player's team guesses the word, they receive one point. If their team does not guess, no points are assigned (since the opposing team which wrote down the word being demonstrated would have an unfair advantage were they to guess).



Modifications: You may wish to have two separate containers for the older and younger students. All sentences/phrases go into one and all single words go into the other bag. Have older students read the phrase to themselves and act it out. Have younger students read the single word and act it out. Note: All age groups may need help figuring out how to act out the word or phrase. The teacher can take the student to another spot or whisper in their ear how the teacher would act it out. The teacher can have them practice, out of sight, what they are going to do to act out the word or phrase and give a few suggestions before having them charade in front of the other students.

Option: To make it "snowball" charades, have

students write down nouns related to winter (glove, hat, fire, snowman) and then have them write down adjectives that could describe things in winter (warm, cold, hot, shivering, blowing, red). Put the different word groups into two different bags. Have the students pull out one word from each bag (ex. snowman and warm) and have them act out their new phrase (warm snowman). (They may want to act out "warm



snowman” by being a snowman and then act like it is melting). Talk about each one for a minute after the students guess. Ex. Is that normally how we would describe a snowman? What words would we normally use?

Tip: Involve the whole family, get mom, dad, and brothers and sisters into the act as well.