

Teacher notes

Year 6 Vocabulary: The story of Baba Yaga

To use a thesaurus effectively

In this lesson, pupils will practise using a thesaurus effectively, including how to decide which is the best synonym for the intended context.

This pack includes:

- › Teacher slides
- › Thesaurus work activity sheet
- › Writer's craft activity sheet

Revisit

What are synonyms? Words that mean the same – or nearly the same – as each other (*slides 3 – 5*). Emphasise the importance of that 'nearly', because the small differences can have a large impact.

Often, we think of a word but know there is a better one that has a very similar meaning. Or we realise that we have already used a word and we don't want to repeat it. This is where a thesaurus is so useful. It helps us find the right synonym quickly.

Recap how thesauruses work – like a dictionary in terms of words being arranged alphabetically. For each word, there will be a selection of synonyms.

Teach

Remind pupils that the same word might have different meanings, depending on the context, or possibly the word class. Look at the example on [slide 6](#). Which would fit best in this sentence:

Go to the forest and ask Baba Yaga for a light.

Light is being used as a noun here, so one of the noun synonyms would be appropriate. You can't really give someone a glow or a beam, so the best synonyms would be lamp or lantern ([slide 7](#)).

When using a thesaurus, you need to make sure that you are choosing the right synonym for the context and the word class.

Apply

Activity	Teaching points	Notes
1) Thesaurus work (shown on slide 8).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pupils use a thesaurus to find synonyms for given words. They should then circle or underline a synonym that might best replace the bold word in the given sentence. 	
2) Writer's craft activity (shown on slide 9).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pupils use a thesaurus to find two different synonyms for each word. For each synonym, they write a sentence to show how it could be used correctly. 	
Further tasks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Can pupils find synonyms for other words in the model text? 	