The Spelling Bee

by B.J. Lee

Do you know a Spelling Bee?
I know one well, and vow that she
can spell the names of all the flowers
whose sweet nectar she devours.

I took this Spelling Bee with me

and I said that
She spelled “Petunia.” Quite divine!

And with “Dahlia” she did fine.
Then she missed both “Thigh” and “Thumb,”
but quickly spelled “Chrysanthemum.”

So I found out that Spelling Bees
cannot spell all words with ease.
For flower names, they spell each one,
but other words? They know none.
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1. Which choice describes the main idea of the poem?
   
   a. A person enters a spelling bee and only spells flower words correctly.
   b. A person enters a spelling bee. She misspells easy words, but correctly spells difficult words.
   c. A person enters a real bee into a spelling bee. The bee spells all words correctly.
   d. A person enters a bee into a spelling bee. The bee correctly spells the names of flowers.

2. Complete the table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Words the Spelling Bee Spells Correctly</th>
<th>Words the Spelling Bee Spells Incorrectly</th>
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3. What is the genre of this poem?
   
   a. historical fiction
   b. realistic fiction
   c. science fiction
   d. fantasy

4. Which word would the Spelling Bee most likely misspell?
   
   a. daffodil
   b. petal
   c. violet
   d. buttercup

Just for fun: Ask a friend to spell the names of the flowers below. See how many they spell correctly.

Level 1 - tulip, daisy, sunflower, rose, lily
Level 2 - marigold, orchid, geranium, petunia, carnation
Level 3 - hydrangea, impatiens, rhododendron

# of Words Correct
The Spelling Bee
Vocabulary Activity

Step 1: Re-read the poem, The Spelling Bee.” As you read, use a highlighter or yellow crayon to highlight each of the vocabulary words from the box.

vow  nectar  devour
petunia  thigh  ease

Step 2:

1. _______  vow  a. sweet liquid made by plants
2. _______  nectar  b. to promise
3. _______  devour  c. part of your leg between your hip and knee
4. _______  petunia  d. completed without difficulty; simple
5. _______  thigh  e. to eat quickly
6. _______  ease  f. popular garden flower

Step 3: Write a complete sentence that correctly uses two of the vocabulary words above. Be sure your sentence is at least 8 words long.

_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
"The Spelling Bee" Poem

Related Activities

Activity 1: On a sheet of lined paper, make a list of 10 popular species of garden flowers. Choose flowers that are not mentioned in the poem, or on the question page. Use a dictionary, encyclopedia, or the internet to help find the correct spelling of each. Draw a picture of each flower next to its name.

Activity 2: Pretend you’re organizing a spelling bee for your friends. On a sheet of lined paper, make a list of 25 easy words, 25 hard words, and 25 challenging words. On a second sheet of paper, write out the rules for your spelling bee. On a third sheet of white paper, draw a colorful poster to advertise your spelling bee.

Activity 3: Imagine you were allowed to plant flowers in a 10-foot by 20-foot rectangular garden. Use grid paper to draw a map of your garden. Draw the flowers and label each species. Also draw and label other things in your garden, such as a bench, a birdbath, or a fence. Then, write a descriptive paragraph titled, “My Garden.” Be sure your paragraph has at least 7 complete sentences. Include vivid, descriptive words in your writing.

Activity 4: Research bumble bees. Use books from the library, web sites, or encyclopedias to find information. Your research report should have five paragraphs -
1. Introduction paragraph
2. Anatomy of a Bumble Bee (Describe a bee’s body parts.)
3. Habitat of a Bumble Bee (Describe where they live and what their homes are like.)
4. Life Cycle of a Bumble Bee (Describe how they change during their lives.)
5. Interesting Facts About Bumble Bees (Describe any other fascinating facts you find.)
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   c. A person enters a real bee into a spelling bee. The bee spells all words correctly.
   d. **A person enters a bee into a spelling bee. The bee correctly spells the names of flowers.**

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3. What is the genre of this poem?  
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   a. historical fiction
   b. realistic fiction
   c. science fiction
   d. **fantasy**

4. Which word would the Spelling Bee most likely misspell?  
   b
   a. daffodil
   b. **petal**
   c. violet
   d. buttercup

**Just for fun:** Ask a friend to spell the names of the flowers below. See how many they spell correctly.

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Super Teacher Worksheets - www.superteacherworksheets.com
Step 1: Re-read the poem, The Spelling Bee.” As you read, use a highlighter or yellow crayon to highlight each of the vocabulary words from the box.

- vow
- nectar
- devour
- petunia
- thigh
- ease

Step 2: Match each vocabulary word with its definition.

1. b vow
2. a nectar
3. e devour
4. f petunia
5. c thigh
6. d ease

PREVIEW

Please log in or register to download the printable version of this worksheet.

Step 3: Write a complete sentence that correctly uses two of the vocabulary words above. Be sure your sentence is at least 8 words long.

Answers will vary.