

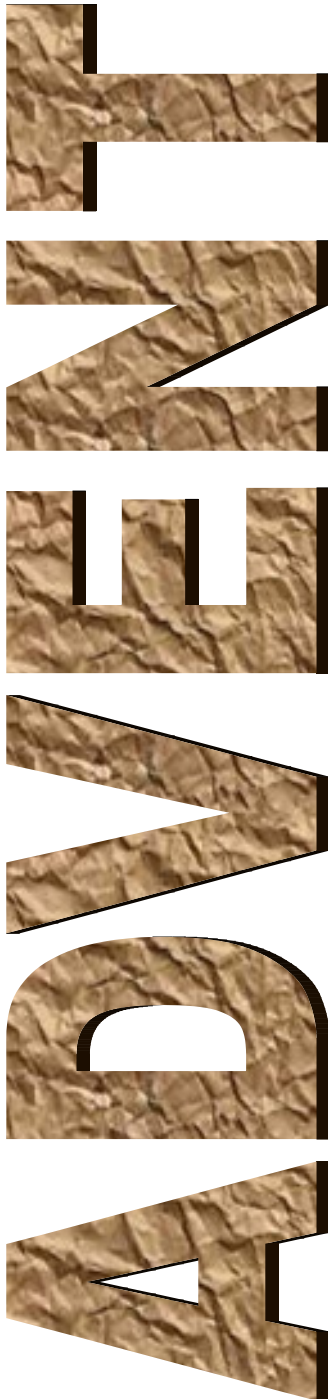
Are you looking for a December assignment that's a little different, but still fits right in to curriculum expectations? "Spell a wide range of commonly used words correctly", "Give evidence of an expanding vocabulary in their writing", and "Contribute and work constructively in groups" are just a few of the expectations that you can meet with the assignments you'll find here.

The following three word lists can be used as spelling lists with a difference. They can be given to the class on a Monday, with a dictation planned for the following Monday. They can also be used without any dictation at the end, if that is your style. Give the class one or two of your Language Arts periods to work on them in pairs, or groups, since the assignments lend themselves readily to peer tutoring. Link them to Visual Arts by challenging the students to create their own "Wordart" by working a list word into an illustration in an unusual and visually appealing manner. For instance, they might draw an angel whose body is based in the letter "q". The head and face would be in the round top of the letter, while the "an" on one side, and the "el" on the other side would become the wings. Read that description to them and see if someone is willing /able to sketch it quickly on the board, or on paper. Include yourself in the challenge!

Make a deal with the class, for a little added excitement about the dictation. (Yes, I said "excitement!") The first student who can spell the whole list correctly, (with no second tries) to you before Friday, can give the list to their classmates in dictation on the next Monday, and not have to write it themselves. Let the students work in pairs and give the dictation to each other. They could also do the marking for each other, but with an added fillip – if you scan their marking quickly and find they have mis-marked any word, they will have to write that word a dozen times on the board, in Christmas green or red chalk. Do you have, (or can you find) a poster showing the American Sign Language alphabet? Kids enjoy the challenge of working out how to sign their list words. If the poster is placed on a classroom wall, it lends itself readily to the different learning styles of students. Visual learners love having the words literally put into their hands, and having the students check each other can really help them to learn the correct spellings.

The research and the writing components of these assignments make them into a good source of evaluation opportunities for you. Of course, you can also feel free to adapt them to the needs of your particular class, and present them with your own creative touches.

Enjoy!



| | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| <u>a n t i c i p a t i o n</u> | <u>a w a i t e d</u> | <u>S a v i o u r</u> |
| <u>f o r e t o l d</u> | <u>p r o p h e t s</u> | <u>j o y f u l</u> |
| <u>v e s t m e n t</u> | <u>p r i e s t</u> | <u>c h u r c h</u> |
| <u>r e l i g i o u s</u> | <u>w o r s h i p</u> | <u>s i g n i f i c a n t</u> |
| <u>A d v e n t</u> | <u>l i t u r g y</u> | |

- 1) Write the list twice. Use a different Christmas colour each time you write the list.
- 2) Two list words begin with the same consonant blend. Write these words beside their "alphabet code".
- 3) (a) What adjectives can be made from the root of these words ... *liturgy *worship? (b) What nouns can be formed from the root of these words ... *religious *joyful *significant?
- 4) Choose any two words for which to research the etymology.
- 5) Write the two-syllable words in alphabetical order.
- 6) Write each of these words in your notebook and beside each one, write an antonym, and a synonym. *joyful *anticipate *worship *significant *religious
- 7) (a) Write the words that contain a *long-a* sound produced by an "a", and then write the word whose *long-a* sound is produced by a diphthong, or **vowel blend**. (b) Write the word that contains a *long-e* sound produced by an "e", then write the word whose *long-e* sound is produced by a diphthong, and finally, write a word whose *long-e* sound is produced by a "y".
- 8) Use each word in a separate "Advent" sentence.

Answer Key: Advent

- 1) Green or red might be expected, but be flexible in what you accept!
- 2) Alphabet code: A = 1, B = 2, C = 3, D = 4, etc. Remember to separate #'s with a comma!
 - a. prophets = 16, 18, 15, 16, 8, 5, 20, 19 priest = 16, 18, 9, 5, 19, 20
- 3) liturgical, worshipful (b) religion, joy, significance
- 4) **Etymology** is defined as *an explanation of the origins and/or history of a word* . Give a brief explanation of how explorers, for instance, might bring home more than just maps and stories. They might bring something new to their country, like the idea of a **VERANDAH** being brought to England from India. **PASTA** originated as an Italian word, but we use it now as though it had always been an English word. This question could be used as a challenge for brighter students, or given to everyone. Not all dictionaries will give this information, but those that do usually trace the history of a word in reverse order from present-day, back through time. Students maybe surprised to learn how much of our vocabulary can trace its origin back to the Romans and their Latin language.
- 5) advent, foretold, joyful, prophets, saviour, vestment, worship
- 6) If you and your students are computer literate (or working at becoming so), challenge them to produce the following chart using either Word, or Excel, and submit it saved on a floppy, or printed out in hardcopy. This is a perfect opportunity for the student(s) in your room who already know how to do this, to share their knowledge in some peer tutoring.

| List Word | Antonym | Synonym |
|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| joyful | sad | happy |
| anticipate | await | dread |
| worship | despise | adore |
| significant | unimportant | important |
| religious | holy | secular |
| | | |

- 7) anticipation, Saviour; awaited (*ai*) (b) religious; priest (*ie*); liturgy
- 8) Answers will vary.