Spelling In the Classroom Idea Bank

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**Spelling Bee Poster Competition**

Set up a competition to have students design posters. Teachers engage all students in a lesson that presents effective poster designs and the elements that students should include in their individual event posters. Students create posters that reflect the theme of the Spelling Bee: To Bee or Not To Bee. Posters are then judged by a panel that includes students. The winning poster is replicated and posted throughout the building to announce the school-wide Bee. Offer prizes for best poster and possibly a runner up. This is a great way to involve all students not just those in the competition.

**Posters might include:**

* Date, Time, and Location
* Connection to Spelling Bee Theme
* Graphic element like drawings or photographs

**Spelling Bee Themed Books**

Teachers and students work together to create a library of spelling bee themed books that students can select from for individual reading or as a class, perhaps offering them extra credit for reading and reporting on these books. Often, once students see spelling bees represented in books they take more of an interest in the prospect of the bee.

**Possible books include:**

* *I Put a Spell on You* by Adam Selzer
* *Spelldown* by Karon Luddy
* *The Berenstain Bears and The Big Spelling Bee* by Stan and Jan Berenstain
* *Pinky and Rex and the Spelling Bee* By James Howe
* *The Spelling Bee* By Brent Davis

**Friday Bees**

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**Spelling Bee Journals**

**C:\Users\Lindsay\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\0QC8WBBF\MC900071399[1].wmf**Students do informal writing in their journals about spelling bees and spelling-based themes, perhaps connecting entries to the spelling-themed books by creating reading journal entries. In addition, you might have them focus on designing a hypothetical spelling bee trophy. Ask each student to imagine the most awesome spelling bee trophy he/she can. Instruct the students to write 4-6 sentences describing in EXCEPTIONAL detail what the trophy would look and feel like (they can even include smell if the trophy is made of something particularly aromatic). After students have written this, allow them to draw their trophies or create mini-models of their trophies, perhaps offering them bonus points for doing so. Extend writing about spelling bees into pre-writing on the need for spelling bees (or not), profiles on the type of students who compete, etc.

C:\Users\Schreiner\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IZA1U4II\MC900391166[1].wmf**Spelling Poems**

Create a class poetry book about spelling bees. After reading up on spelling bees or perhaps watching a movie like “Akeelah and the Bee,” teachers ask students to write poems about spelling bees. To assist them in doing this, brainstorm words that could be associated with spelling bees, including words that would describe how competitors may feel while participating. Divide students into pairs and give each pair a different poetic form (assigning Haiku to one group, Cinquain to another, etc.). Ask each group to compose a spelling-bee centric poem using the brainstormed words as tools following the assigned form. Have the finished book bound and place it in your classroom library.

*Tip – To differentiate, deliberately assign easier poetic forms to students who struggle more and harder forms to students who naturally write well.*

**Spelling Bee Skits**

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**News Miss-Spellings**

Identify examples of how spelling impacts the world around us. Teachers provide mini-lessons on examples from newspapers, magazines, and billboards with miss-spellings. Engage students in discussions that demonstrate the dangers and humor when these errors occur. Then encourage students to seek out examples of their own from the “real world.” Have students bring them in and write an explanation of how the error could lead to problems, etc. Feature a bulletin board in your room of these examples from real life with student explanations.

**Spelling Bee News**

C:\Users\Lindsay\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\OSSUC780\MC900357981[1].wmfCreate newspaper articles about the Spelling Bee. Using the initial pre-writing from their journals, students begin to learn about journalism and how stories are covered. Teachers instruct students on the basics of writing a feature story and then have them write stories about your local Spelling Bees. Also, have students write profiles on various competitors in the spelling bee. Perhaps what they write could be used for your Spelling Bee program or an existing school newspaper. If not, you could post student articles and profiles in the hallway. Once posted have, have students read and report on a story they liked and/or found interesting.