

# Sizzling Vocabulary

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Why use ordinary words when we can use words that s-i-z-z-l-e? An outstanding vocabulary is one of the marks of a great writer. Lackluster words create boring material. The first passage below sounds generic and ordinary:

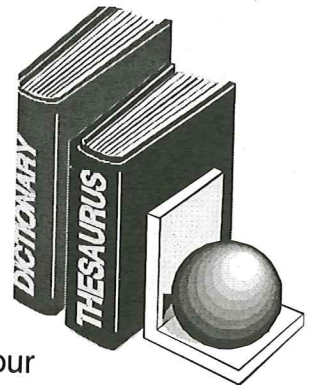
When Nadja's back was turned, the bull snorted and came after her. She turned and became afraid when she saw how big he was. He ran very fast.

Add a few sizzling words and the passage becomes charged with excitement.

When Nadja's back was turned, the raging bull snorted and began to charge. Turning, she flinched in terror at his monstrous size. Gargantuan! He tore across the pasture like lightning on the loose.

When they're writing rough drafts, writers often use the first word that comes into their heads. However, when revising, they look at each word. Think about the impact each word has. This is when you can choose better words or sizzling vocabulary words. Select words that convey your meaning and mood to the reader.

The dictionary and thesaurus are great places to gather words. Keep a list of sizzling vocabulary words that add splash and pizzazz to your writing. Here are a few lists to start with. Keep adding to these and other lists in your writer's notebook.



A monster in your story doesn't have to be *ugly*. He could be....

bizarre	grotesque	loathsome	revolting	undesirable
disgusting	hideous	monstrous	skank	unsightly
dog-faced	homely	repulsive	unattractive	wretched

On the other hand, a princess doesn't have to be just *pretty*. She could be....

adorable	chic	divine	foxy	lovely
appealing	comely	elegant	glamorous	magnificent
attractive	cute	exotic	good-looking	muy bonita
beautiful	dazzling	exquisite	gorgeous	striking
charming	desirable	fetching	handsome	stunning

## Sizzling Vocabulary...continued



A subject you are writing about doesn't have to be just *interesting*. It could be....

absorbing	captivating	extraordinary	intriguing	remarkable
appealing	enthraling	fascinating	mesmerizing	spellbinding

Something *small* could be described in many ways, such as....

bantam	Lilliputian	miniscule	petite	tiny
diminutive	microscopic	minute	puny	undersized
dwarfed	midget	paltry	small	wee
itsy-bitsy	miniature	pee-wee	teeny-weeny	weensy

If one of your characters thinks something is *good*, it could be called....

awesome	excellent	fine	marvelous	super
delightful	exceptional	first-rate	outstanding	terrific
enjoyable	fantastic	great	pleasant	wonderful

Does someone *rub you the wrong way*? He could be....

aggravating	exasperating	infuriating	loathsome	provoking
annoying	frustrating	irksome	maddening	trying
bothersome	grating	irritating	pestering	wearisome

Words can't express how *big* something is...That is, until you try one of these....

behemoth	gargantuan	huge	leviathan	super-size
colossal	giant	humongous	mammoth	titanic
elephantine	gigantic	immense	massive	tremendous
enormous	Herculean	jumbo	monstrous	vast
epic	hippopotamic	large	stupendous	whopping

You try not to *laugh* at something funny, but you can't help but burst out with a....

belly-laugh	chuckle	ha-ha-ha	peel of laughter	snort
cackle	giggle	hee-haw	roar	tee-hee
chortle	guffaw	hoot	snicker	whoop

