

Once Upon a Word...

Story telling is one of the most entertaining, enlightening, and enriching activities we engage in. It has been said that "People who don't have stories in their cultures go nuts" (Rafe Martin) and "Sometimes a person needs a story more than food to stay alive." (Barry Lopez) I imagine we all have grown up hearing stories. We are collecting our favorites for our Antholios. Sometimes stories just sound funny or cool; sometimes they explain things in an interesting way; sometimes they inspire us to be better or teach us valuable life lessons. Stories (some told with pictures instead of words) have been around from the beginning of humanity. They help define what it means to be human.

Words are most often used to tell stories though. And the more specific and concrete the words are, the better the story is. But did you know that words themselves have stories? You are about to discover some "ah ha" moments by discovering the stories behind many of our common words. Knowing the story will help you remember the word and be able to use it more precisely.

Let's make our own ongoing word story book. Everyone will contribute an illustrated page for the word you pick. You may use etymological dictionaries in our classroom and in libraries to locate your information. This is also something that can be found online by Googling word origin sites and by entering your specific word as well. I'm attaching a great big list of words that I believe have interesting stories. Sign up for the word(s) you want and let the story sleuthing begin. (NB The word stories you find won't be long. Type what you find out in your own words. Include a creative, interesting illustration along with the word and its story. Arrange the presentation on a page no larger than 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 11)

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|----------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. allegory | 14. broke (meaning
no money) | 25. dollar |
| 2. assassin | 15. cab (taxi) | 26. donnybrook |
| 3. barbarian | 16. cancer | 27. dunce |
| 4. bailiwick | 17. caesarean | 28. draconian |
| 5. barbecue | 18. calculate | 29. escape |
| 6. bedlam | 19. chaos, chasm | 30. exchequer |
| 7. bizarre | 20. curfew | 31. forest, foreign |
| 8. blackmail | 21. coffee,
croissant | 32. face |
| 9. blockbuster | 22. coward | 33. filibuster |
| 10. blurb | 23. denim | 34. gift |
| 11. boondoggle | 24. deadline | 35. glitch |
| 12. boycott | | 36. gossip |
| 13. berserk | | 37. groggy |

38.hector
39.Herculean
40.host, hospital,
hostel, hospice,
hospitality
41. humor
42.hacker
43.handicap
44.hero
45.homecoming
46.huckleberry
47.jazz
47.jinx
48.kangaroo
49.ketchup
50.knight
51. laconic
52.lethargy
53.Lilliputian
54.lukewarm
55.malapropism
56.martinet
57.meander
58.mesmerize
59.mnemonics
60.muscle
61. mayhem
62.misdemeanor
63.mortgage
64.museum
65.mosaic
66.nice
67.nightingale
68.nightmare
69.orange
70.ostracize
71. pavilion
72.pandemonium
73.paparazzi
74.picnic
75.pig
76.pizzazz
77.pay, peace

78.pineapple
79.pedestrian
80.planet
81. pontoon
82.Promethean
83.pyrrhic
84.procrustean
85.quintessential
86.quixotic
87.quiz
88.robot
89.romance
90.rain check
91. red herring
92.romance
93.sardonic
94.search, circus
95.shrink
96.soccer
97.star
98.senator
99.silly
100. slave
101. sleazy
102. sabotage
103. sugar,
candy, caramel
104. thespian
105. tantalize
106. titanic
107. threshold
108. tabloid
109. terrorism
110. tip
111. travel
112. trivia
113. turkey,
turquoise
114. umpire
115. upset
116. utopia
117. villain
118. vaudeville

119. walk
120. weird
122.yankee
123.zero

Here are a few
more pairs or sets
of words that have
interesting linked
stories. Do them
together:

124. orphan, robot
125. prestige,
prestidigitation
126. roast, roster
127. bereavement,
robber, robe
128. heavy, havoc,
hawk
129. pickle, pinch,
woodpecker
130. rival, river,
arrive
131. sarcasm,
sarcoma,
sarcophagus
132. surge, source,
resurrection
133. tact, taste, tax
134. tropical,
trophy, entropy
135. shell, shield,
scale, scull
136. shoot, sheet,
shut, shout
137. thigh, thumb,
tomb, rifle
138. share, shear,
score, shore, short,
shirt, skirt