

Renee Cunningham

Are You a Smarty-Pants?! 53 min

Objective:

Students will be able to understand the components of an academic competition.

Big Idea:

What makes an academic competition?

1. Warm Up / Anticipatory 8 min

*Pose the following questions: What makes a competition? What are the components of a competition?

*As a class, brainstorm a list of competitions.

*Categorize them with different highlights (athletic v. academic).

2. Investigation and New Learning 15 min

Read the Wonder: Have you ever been in a spelling bee?

Text to self connection writing:

*Does your school have any academic competitions? What kind of academic competition do you think you would be successful at? Why?



3. Review & Check for Understanding 30 min

Host a mock spelling bee in your class! Multiple lists exist online for different grade levels. Set up a competition-style environment with podiums, points, rounds, etc to give students an opportunity to show off their spelling skills!

Resources

- Grades 3-8 Spelling List <http://www.spelling-words-well.com/spelling-bee-word-list.html><http://>

Note: If your school hosts a school-wide spelling bee or you have already had a spelling bee this year; this wonder could easily be connected with a math facts or geography bee competition.