

Synonyms and Antonyms

- Explain to students that synonyms are words that mean the same thing, and antonyms mean the opposite.
- Say a word (e.g. “big”), and have students brainstorm synonyms out loud together. Then, have them brainstorm antonyms.
- Have students look at the text and find synonyms and antonyms. Or, have students think of synonyms or antonyms for the words they see.
- Discuss why an author might choose to use synonyms or antonyms, and how they help the reader to better understand the text. Ask: “How could you use synonyms and antonyms in your own writing?”
- Consider introducing students to a thesaurus, and show them how to use it. Explain that seeing which words mean the same thing, and which words mean the opposite, can help you to understand the full meaning of the word.

Notes:

For more support on Synonyms and Antonyms, see page 35 of the *Pathways Teacher’s Guide*.