

Looking at words

Nightmare

- **Word definition:** A bad dream.
- **Word origin:** From *night* and the Old English *mare*, meaning an evil spirit that was supposed to suffocate people while they were asleep.
- **Word family:** Noun.
- **Alternatives words:** Dream, fancy, fantasy, hallucination, horror, illusion, ordeal, phantasm, torment, trial, tribulation, vision.
- **Activities:** Encourage the children's interest in the origins of words, which are often interesting and surprising. Ask the children to speculate on the origins of compound words that they use every day, such as *breakfast* and *cupboard*.

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Compound words
and kennings,
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Fetch

- **Word definition:** To get or to bring back.
- **Word origin:** From the Old English *feccan*, meaning to fetch, bring or marry.
- **Word family:** Verb.
- **Alternative words:** Get, bring back, deliver, go for.
- **Antonyms:** Let go, take away.
- **Activities:** Look at the word in context on photocopiable page 64, 'Jack and Jill'. Ask the children if it is a verb or a noun. What other words could be substituted for *fetch* in the rhyme (*get, collect, bring back*)?
- Ask the children to use the verb *fetch* in these sentences: *Leon went to get his jacket* and *Please go to the kitchen and bring back two mugs*. Ask them to make up their own sentences using *fetch*.
- Invite them to use *fetch* in as many contexts as they can throughout the day.

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Word play

What does it mean?

- The meaning of some compound words is different from the meaning of the two words when apart. Ask the children to describe or draw alternative meanings for words, such as *watchdog* (dog with a clock attached) or *crossword* (a puzzle made up of angry words). Other compound words you could use include *honeymoon* and *butterfly*.

Charades

- Play charades with compound words. Let one child in a pair act out each of the two words that make up their compound word while the rest of the class has to guess the compound word.

Words inside words

- Give pairs of children long words and ask them to find words within them, such as *football* (*foot/ball/all*), *butterfly* (*but/butt/butter/fly*), *landscape* (*land/and/cap/cape*), *handstand* (*hand/and/an/stand/tan*) and *kitchen* (*kit/it/litch/hen*).