



# Lights, Camera, Action: Onomatopoeia POW!

## Lesson Summary

**Estimated Time: 30-35 minutes**

WordGirl encounters villains every day, but Butcher makes this meat room rendezvous so much more memorable! How? Through words—onomatopoeia words that sound like what they mean. “Salami Slam! Pork Chop Chop! Chicken Pot Pow!” Now that packs a punch! (Don’t worry, WordGirl still wins—boom!)

In this lesson, students will explore the fun of onomatopoeia by creating their own superhero skit using words that sound like their meaning.

## Big Question

**What does “onomatopoeia” mean and how can I use it?**

### This lesson will help students to:

1. Understand the meaning of onomatopoeia.
2. Work collaboratively to use onomatopoeia and create a short superhero skit.

### Media Resources

*WordGirl*, “Yes Sir, That’s my Butcher”

### Materials

- List of onomatopoeia words.
- Chart paper
- Markers
- Eve Meriam’s poem, “Weather” printable
- Recorded sounds OR the actual item that makes the onomatopoeia words, such as:
  - Timer beep
  - Water plop
  - Steak sizzle
  - Zipper zip
  - Snake’s hiss
  - Finger snap



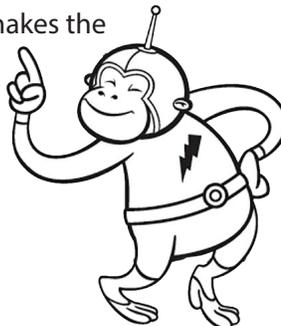
### WordGirl Words

#### *ally*

a person or organization who is on your side

#### *onomatopoeia*

words that sound like what they mean

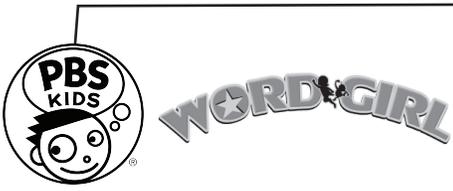


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## Lesson Activity

### Introduction

1. Share with your class a timer beeping. Ask your students: *What is the word for the sound you are hearing?* Share other sounds or objects that you brought or recorded. *What is unique about the words naming the sounds?* Explain that the words sound like what they mean. This is called **onomatopoeia**. Ask students if they can name other words that do this. Make a list on chart paper.
2. Superheroes and villains LOVE these types of words: *wham, zap, zoom, crash!* WordGirl is especially fond of them, and even Butcher likes to use them to emphasize his evil powers. Check out his **onomatopoeia** in this clip where WordGirl and Huggy Face fight his meat-loving deeds.
3. Show the WordGirl clip, "Yes Sir, That's my Butcher." *What onomatopoeia did you hear? How did it help the story? Who was WordGirl's ally, or person on her side?* Make a list on the chart paper.

### Instruction

1. Using onomatopoeia adds interest and fun to your writing, whether you are a superhero, a villain, or an elementary school writer! Share the list of **onomatopoeia** words, including the lists they created on the chart paper. Invite the students to share with the class their favorite word and why.
2. Read together Eve Merriam's poem, "Weather." Discuss the onomatopoeic words the author used and how it helped the poem.
3. Tell your students that they get to create their own superhero skit using **onomatopoeia**! Divide the class into smaller groups. Each group will have 10 minutes to create a skit that needs to have at least eight onomatopoeia words. In addition, the superhero needs to have an **ally**, a person who is on her side. The skits shouldn't be longer than 3-5 minutes each. Encourage them to think about good storytelling—characters, setting, plot—as they create their skits.
4. Perform the skits to the class. As students watch, have them raise their hands each time they hear an **onomatopoeia** word. After each skit, have them name who the superhero, **ally**, and villains were.

## Extend the Learning

1. Create a comic strip using onomatopoeia. Find a template or use a blank sheet of paper, and draw a heroic tale that includes as many onomatopoeia words as possible.
2. Write an onomatopoeia poem like Eve Merriam's. Choose a similar theme from nature or have students come up with their own topics.

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WORDGIRL

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## Weather by Eve Merriam

Dot a dot dot dot a dot dot  
Spotting the windowpane.

Spack a spack speck flick a flack fleck  
Freckling the windowpane.

A spatter a scatter a wet cat a clatter  
A splatter a rumble outside.

Umbrella umbrella umbrella umbrella  
Bumbershoot barrel of rain.

Slosh a galosh slosh a galosh  
Slither and slather a glide

A puddle a jump a puddle a jump  
A puddle a jump puddle splosh

A juddle a pump a luddle a dump  
A pud muddle jump in and slide!

*Source: <https://poets.org/poem/weather>*

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