

Royal Fireworks Language Arts by Michael Clay Thompson

BUILDING LANGUAGE

Second Edition

Michael Clay Thompson

Royal Fireworks Press
UNIONVILLE, NEW YORK



ROME, ROCKS, WORDS

Two thousand years ago,
before Europeans discovered
the back of the world and its people,
ancient Rome ruled the lands
surrounding the Mediterranean Sea.

Today, the ruins of the ancient capital of Rome are in the modern city of Rome, Italy, and the remains of the great buildings and roads that the Romans built can be found from England, to Africa, to Spain.



Italy is shaped like a boot.



In these silent ruins, we still see
one of Rome's greatest gifts
to human civilization, the **arch**.

THE ARCH

The **arch**, with its graceful curve
of hand-shaped stones,
gave Roman buildings
strength and beauty
and was important
to ancient construction.



But the gifts of Rome
to modern civilization include more than
the arch or Roman architecture.

From the Romans we also received
important ideas about law
and government, classics of literature,
and perhaps most important,
language.



ROMAN ROCKS, ROMAN WORDS

Just as many arches that the Romans built more than 2,000 years ago still stand, so many of the words and parts of words that the Romans spoke are still spoken. Even today, we can see familiar words carved in ancient Roman stones.



LATIN › A BRIDGE TO THE PAST

Latin, the language of the Romans, is the rock that many modern languages—including English, Spanish, and others—are built on. In part, English and Spanish are made of Latin, and so they are a word-bridge to the distant past.



STEMS AND STONES

Just as the Romans put stones
together to make an arch,
so they put parts of words together
to make words.

These word parts, which we call **stems**,
join together to make words.

For example, if we add the stem **pre**,
which means before, to the stem **dict**,
we get the word **predict**.

STEM LESSON I

RE

AGAIN

Re means again.

We find Rome's **re** in English words, we do,
such as **repeat**, **return**, **reverse**, **review**,
revise, **reflect**, **recall**, **redo**,
rehearse, **respect**, and even **renew**.



When the arches fall to ruin,
we **rebuild** them by **renewing**
them again.

Once upon a time,
there was a small stem named Re.
Re saw Sub crouching under an arch,
and Sub said, “Hi!”
“Hi, hi, hi!” said Re.
Sub laughed in his low voice;
then Re laughed and laughed and laughed.
Sub asked Re,
“Do you remember why
arches are strong, or should I review?”
“I recall,” said Re. “I recall.”
“Good,” said Sub, with new respect.
Then they looked up
at the keystone.

A RE CLOSEUP

RESPECT

RE › SPEC

Respect, to admire, is a wonderful word,
containing **re**, again, and **spec**, look.
When we learn to **respect** someone,
we look at that person again
in a new way!

RE IN SPANISH

Just as **re** is an important stem in English,
it is also important in Spanish.

Here is a Spanish **re** word:

repetir, to repeat

Yo quiero repetir la palabra.

I want to repeat the word.

A RE POEM

When Flea saw Skin again,
his feelings were **re**newed.
He stalled, **re**viewed, **re**called
it all, and **re**turned to his food!

See if you can write
a poem of four lines
using lots of **re** words
and even some rhymes.
It is okay if your poem is funny!

A RE SIMILE

Here is something fun to do.

Pick a **re** word, and then
compare it to something very different.

A memory IS LIKE a return.

This kind of comparison
is called a *simile* (SIM ih lee).

Write your own simile, and explain it!

An
aqueduct
is
like
respect.

