

Word Fun Presentations



OUTLINE OF THE AUTHOR'S PRESENTATION



- Discuss my work as a rocket scientist helping to develop rockets for NASA's space programs and the one-man rocket backpack used by James Bond in the movie "Thunderball".
- Tell the true story about the book that I used most and actually wore out during my 15 year career in rocketry. (The book was a dictionary.) Also talk about my second most used book (a thesaurus). Discuss why those books are important.
- Talk about the importance of using the proper words in writing and speaking. Explain why knowing, understanding and using words is necessary to avoid being misunderstood.
- Discuss how words of our English language are odd and interesting. Then get students thinking and having fun by playing clever word games from the books **Are You Smart**, or **What**? and **So You Think You're Smart**. The games demonstrate various word peculiarities including homophones, homographs, synonyms, palindromes, anagrams, similes, idioms, euphemisms, etc.
- Close by telling students that words not only have great power but lasting power as well. Give examples of the power of words and how words said and written hundreds and thousands of years ago have a profound effect on our daily lives. Ask the kids to become word sponges and tell them that using words properly will serve them well for the rest of their lives. Answer questions from students, if time permits.