

# Amnesia

Amnesia is a fun way to remember vocabulary words.

A vocabulary word is written on a flashcard. The flashcard is taped to the back of the student (where he or she cannot see it). Students then wander the room in an attempt to gather one-word clues as to which word is taped onto their backs.

For example, if the vocabulary word is “annihilation,” a one-word clue could be “obliteration” or “extermination.”

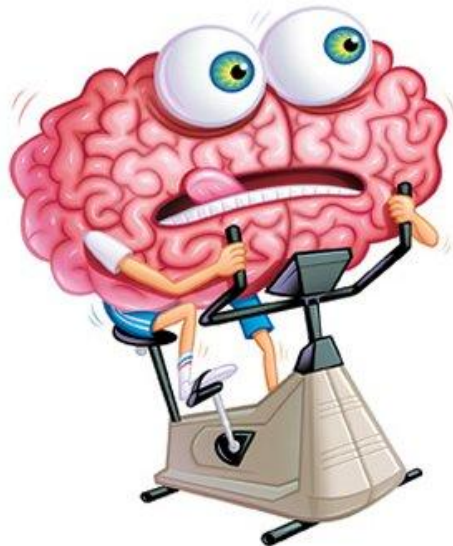
Choose 20 to 30 vocabulary words.

Strengths:

- Amnesia is fun (no, not *real* amnesia)
- Students learn and remember vocabulary words
- Students learn more ways to express the same idea (i.e. “annihilation” and “obliteration” are similar words, which express similar ideas)

Weaknesses:

- Some students don’t offer one-word clues—they just tell the person the word
- Some students don’t like to get up or move around the room
- Some students spend the time talking or gossiping



# Doodlin' Dominick

Think Pictionary...but focused on literature.

Doodlin' Dominick is a quick, simple way to review characters, events, and/or themes from literature.

A student-artist draws an image from the text on a chalkboard or whiteboard. ("You can't use words or letters—only pictures.") The other students then attempt to guess who or what was drawn. If a student wishes to guess, he or she must first say "Doodlin' Dominick." The student-artist points to the student and responds with "Doodlin' Dominick?" The student then gives a response like, "You drew the scene in the book where Leo's garage burned down." If the student guesses correctly, the student-artist shouts "Doodlin' Dominick!" The student who guessed correctly becomes the next student-artist.

This activity becomes especially challenging when everybody in the class is saying "Doodlin' Dominick."

## Strengths:

- Doodlin' Dominick is infectious; most students enjoy drawing, guessing, and saying "Doodlin' Dominick"
- The whole class usually participates
- Reviewing characters, events, and themes is more interesting than lecturing
- Students who like to doodle or draw really enjoy this activity

## Weaknesses:

- This activity may be "too goofy" for the so-called "cooler kids"
- Some students become more and more rambunctious
- Doodlin' Dominick can become more of a "game" and less of a "reinforcement activity"
- Some students like to draw "inappropriate pictures"

