

Solving the New Vocabulary Words Mystery: A Pre/During/Post~Reading Guide

Setting Up the Path to Vocabulary Success

My readers always kept a Reading Response journal for a variety of reading activities. Vocabulary Search & Discover was one of them. On the next blank page, your child can write the title & author of the new book being read.

Pre-Reading: Skim the content for new vocabulary words. Write them on a board. Your child has silently read the text & written unknown vocab words in the journal or on sticky notes on the page where the word was found. Talk about the words & have your child make a few guesses. S/he may actually be able to define and/or give a synonym, antonym, or example of the word's meaning.

During Reading: While your child is reading the text, encourage him/her to use the pictures and context clues (reading the words before & after the unknown word) as a way to understand the new vocabulary word. Does it make sense in the story?

Post-Reading: There are several activities you can do to build an on-going Vocabulary List of new words learned while reading new content. Some of them will be specific to the text: science, social studies, health, fiction-based stories, etc. Here are some ideas:

- Have a Word-of-the-Day posted in a common, visible place. Tally how many times the word is used throughout the day in conversation or heard elsewhere.
- Make an illustrated Vocabulary Book of preferred words to be used regularly.
- Select thematic vocabulary words to use in a Bingo game.
- Make a Match Word-to-Meaning game.
- Make Synonym Suns with the word in the middle & rays for similar words.
- Make Antonym Arrows with the word in the middle & arrows for opposite words pointing away from the vocabulary word.
- Tab the last 20 pages of the Reading Response journal with the alphabet. Have your child add the new vocabulary words & their meanings under the correct letter.
- Using lined on one side, blank on the other side index cards, have your child write the Vocabulary Word at the top, the definition (in her/his own words) underneath it, & a sentence, using the word, underneath the definition. Try to include words in the sentence that help define it. Then, s/he can draw a picture on the back & file it in an index card box supplied with alphabet letter dividers.
- You can do the same thing with the index cards, hole-punch it in a corner & string it on an O-ring. Flip the cards to the correct alphabetical placement.
- Another way to organize these index cards would be in plastic, transparent sleeves & kept in a binder with alphabetical divider tabs.

- Make a Word Up Wall for categorizing the words:

WORD UP

Naming Words/NOUNS

Doing Words/VERBS

Describing Words/ADJ & ADV

Person Animal Place Thing

Have your child use the new Vocabulary Word in a sentence before putting it underneath the correct category. Some words can go under all three/four categories. Make one for each group, using it in a sentence. See if s/he can include other vocabulary words in the sentences, too.

I did a little web search on what new vocabulary words a First Grader will be learning. In addition to thematic word study (weather, animals, environment, community, etc.), here is a VERY short list of some **New Vocabulary Words** your First Grader may be hearing, speaking, reading &, then, using in his/her writing:

Ache alarm alone annoy apologize appetite applause artistic atmosphere attach attention
Basket batch behave belong blink blush bolt borrow bundle
Cabin calm caution celebrate champion chat chimney comfortable compass construct cozy
 crash creak croak crowded cue curious curved
Daily dainty decide decorate delighted deserve directions discover divide drenched drowsy
Embarrassed enormous equal exclaim exhausted expensive explore
Fair fancy fascinating fasten feast filthy flat flee focus fog footprint forest frustrated
Gather giant gigantic glad grab grateful grin grip groan grumpy
Hatch heap hide hobby honest howl huge **I**gnore illustrator injury investigation
Jealous **K**nob kneel **L**eader lively loosen **M**easure miserable misty modern mountain
Narrow negative nervous **O**bey observing opposite
Pain passenger pattern pest polish positive precious pretend promise protest proud
Rapid reminds remove repeat report rescue respect restart return ripe rise rough rusty
Scold scratch selfish serious shriek silent simple slippery sly sneaky sob special spiral
 splendid sprinkle squirm startle steep stormy striped suddenly suggestion surround switch
Terrified thick thunder ticket timid transportation travel trust **U**pset
Warning whimper whirl wicked worried

The websites: [Flocabulary](#) & [Great Schools](#) have grade level vocabulary lists for you.