

Progression in Vocabulary

VOCABULARY

Vocabulary is key to reading comprehension. Children must know the meaning of words to understand what they are reading. As children read more advanced texts, they must learn the meaning of new words that are not part of their every day vocabulary. Children use strategies to work out the meaning of unfamiliar words, such as using words in context or being able to explore the meaning of words in a dictionary and thesaurus.

Elements	Year 1 and Year 2	Year 3 and Year 4	Year 5 and Year 6
Word meaning	 Discuss and clarify the meaning of words. Make links between new words and known words. Use vocabulary given by the teacher. Apply phonic knowledge (blending and segmenting to decode) to accurately read aloud books that are consistent with development. Notice if a sentence does not make sense and self-correct 	 Discuss new and unusual vocabulary and clarify the meaning. Use a dictionary to check the meaning and a thesaurus to find synonyms. Find the meaning of new words using the context of the sentence. 	 Explore the meaning of words in context, using a dictionary to check understanding. Investigate alternative word choices that could be used. Read around the word and explore meaning in the broader context of a section or paragraph.
Exploring vocabulary	 Discuss favourite words and phrases Recognise recurring language in stories and poems and join in with repetitive phrases. 	 Identify how language choices help build meaning. Discuss words that have been used to capture the reader's interest or imagination, and the effect they have on the reader. 	 Discuss and evaluate how the author's choice of language impacts the reader. Find examples of figurative language and how this impacts the reader and contributes to meaning or mood.
To do this, I must already know and understand	 That words have meanings and that different words can mean the same thing. That stories and poems can have repeating patterns. Words can offer an extra layer of meaning e.g. walked and wandered. That some texts have glossaries and that these can provide the meanings of unfamiliar words. 	 Alphabetical order (for dictionary and thesaurus use) That a dictionary defines words whereas a thesaurus provides synonyms. That different texts have different vocabulary choices e.g. specialised vocabulary will depend on the genre or topic. That features such as the glossary can help me to find the meaning of unfamiliar, subject specific words. 	 That an author chooses words carefully and that changing these can change the mood of the text. How to use a dictionary, thesaurus and glossary, confidently, using alphabetical order. How to evaluate word choices used for effect. That figurative language includes simile, personification, hyperbole and metaphor.
VIPERS Question Stems	 What does the word mean in this sentence? Find and copy a word which means What does this word or phrase tell you about? Which word in this section do you think is the most important? Why? Which of the words best describes the character/setting/mood, etc? Can you think of any other words that the author could have used to describe this? Why do you think is repeated in this section? 	 What do the words and suggest about the character, setting and mood? Which word tells you that? Which keyword tells you about the character/setting/mood? Find one word in the text which means? Find the word which is closest in meaning to? Find a word or phrase which shows/suggests that? 	