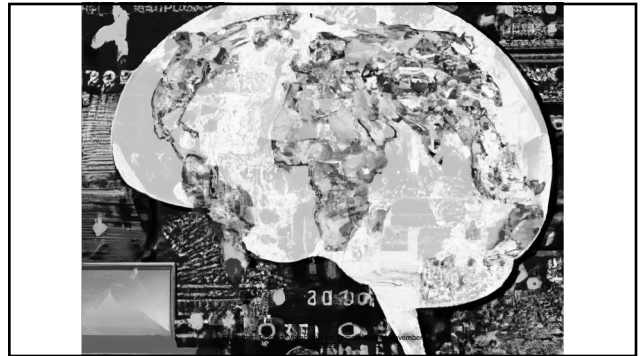
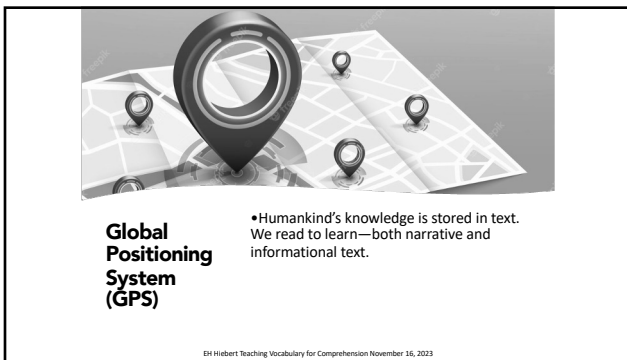


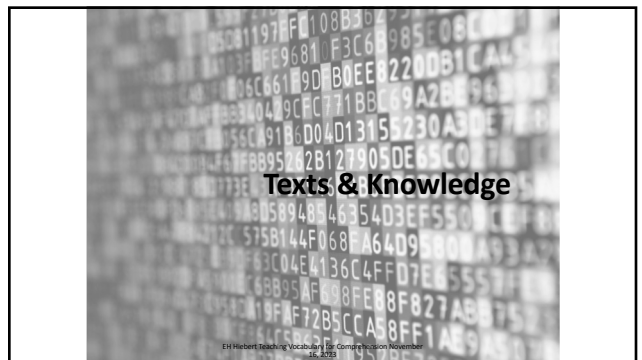
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6

THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR
by Eric Carle

GOODNIGHT MOON
by Margaret Wise Brown

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?

Storybooks for toddlers can have more hard words than typical conversations between adults.

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Knowledge at the Center

Topic knowledge strongly predicts comprehension of a passage (Ahmed, Francis, York, Fletcher, Barnes, & Kulesz, 2016).

Vocabulary is an indicator of topic knowledge and even a handful of key words can predict a passage's comprehension (O'Reilly, Wang, & Sabatini, 2019)

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GPS

•Humankind's knowledge is stored in text. We read to learn—both stories and informational text.

•Comprehension depends on automaticity with vocabulary...but which words? Part 1: The Core Vocabulary

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The Many Words of English

- 282,500 root or head words
- 326,000 derivatives & phrases
- 47,150 obsolete words

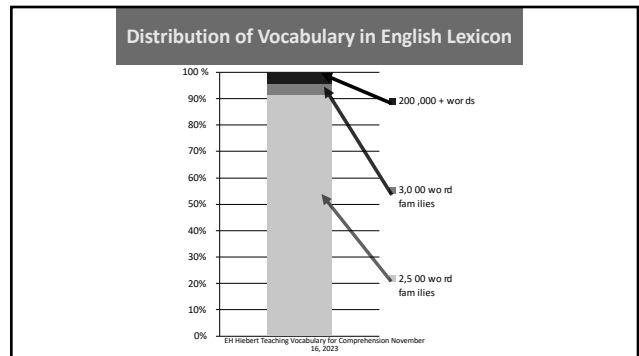
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A small group of words does the heavy lifting in English.

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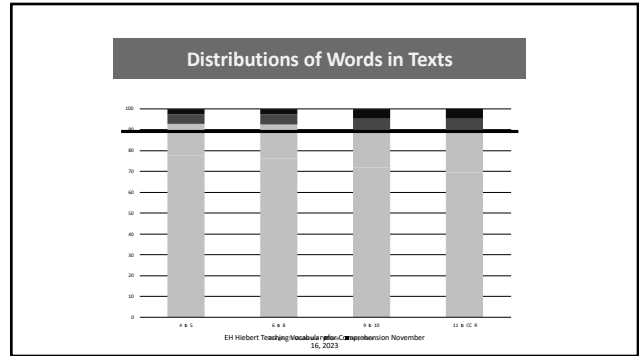
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Examples of Words in Core Vocabulary

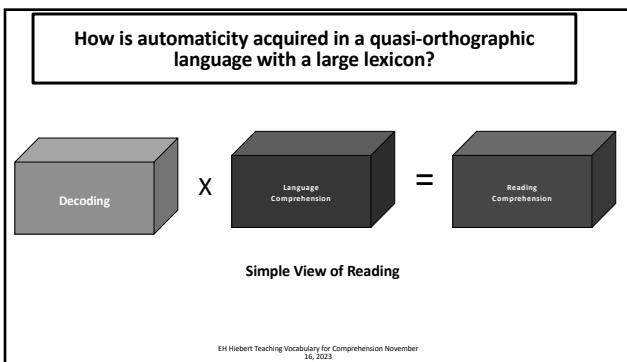
Word Zone	Words
1st 100	the, by, through
101-300	long, great, family
301-1,000	power, strong, answer
1,001-1,500	valley, imagine, motion
1,501-2,000	responsible, presence, trail
2001-2,500	discovery, civilization, assume

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How is automaticity acquired in a quasi-orthographic language with a large lexicon?

- From the First-grade Studies on (Bond & Dykstra, 1967), the conclusion has been unequivocal: Becoming automatic in connecting letters and sounds is fundamental to proficient reading. (Anderson et al., 1985; National Reading Panel, 2000; Snow et al., 1998)
- Automatic connections come from substantial interactions with print.
 - "Readers become orthographic experts by absorbing a lot of data, which is one reason why the sheer amount and variety of texts that children read is important...Major statistical patterns emerge as the child encounters a larger sample of words.... We don't study orthographic patterns in order to be able to read; we gain orthographic expertise by reading." (Seidenberg, *Language at the speed of sight*, p. 92)

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How is automaticity acquired in a quasi-orthographic language with a large lexicon?

- Automatic connections come from substantial interactions with print.
 - "Readers become orthographic experts by absorbing a lot of data, which is one reason why the sheer amount and variety of texts that children read is important...Major statistical patterns emerge as the child encounters a larger sample of words." (Seidenberg, *Language at the speed of sight*, p. 92)

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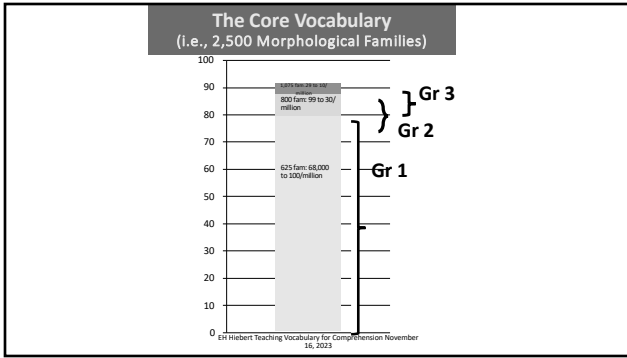
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How are students best supported to be automatic readers?

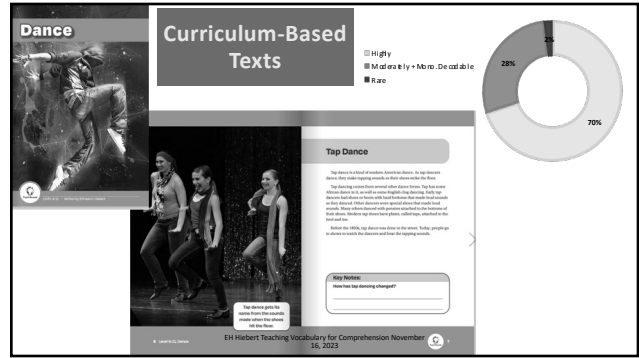
Read critical words in texts worth reading...with increased exposure to "growing zone" vocabulary.

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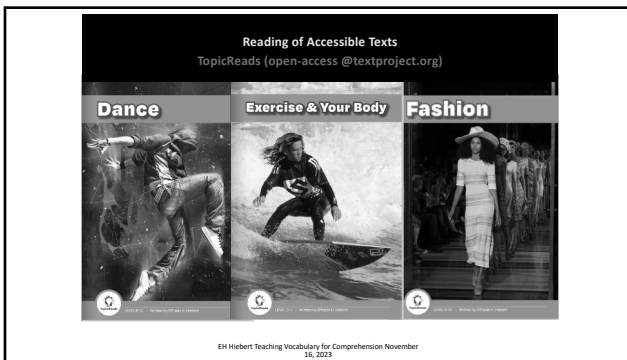
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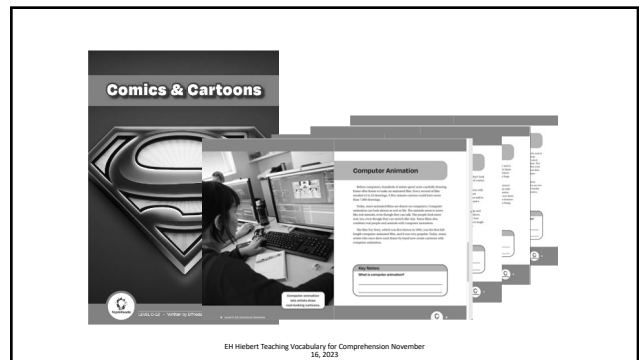
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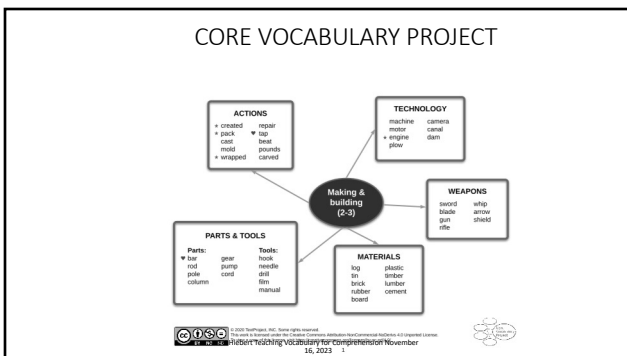
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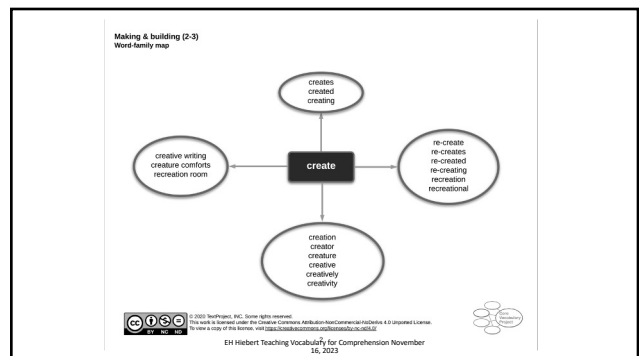
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Making & building (2-3)
Multiple-meaning word map

bar

- In the pole vault, they use a pole to jump over a high bar. The bar is raised until there is only one jumper who can leap over the bar. (The Olympics)
- a rod made of metal or wood (n)
- a counter where people can buy drinks and snacks (n)
- There is a telephone at the snack bar (read: stop, snack, wire)
- a rectangular piece or block of something (n)
- She washed her face and packed some juice and made a chocolate bar as well. (Ethan and the dark rider)

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GPS

- Humankind's knowledge is stored in text. We read to learn—both stories and informational text.
- Comprehension depends on automaticity with vocabulary...but which words? Part 1: The Core Vocabulary
- Comprehension depends on automaticity with vocabulary...but which words? Part 2: Rarer Vocabulary

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slender
gallant
chimed
preparations
flickered
concluded

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cable
resources
environmental
renewable
converted
willing

installed
whirring
denmark
katherine
hermannsen
cranes
brian
ferry
kjaer
ingen
bass
turbines
sams
munching
danish
holm
soren
ingvar
invest
whooshing
ministry
electrician
tranberg
sleet
soak
renewable
poulen
secondhand
turbine
naja
biomass
emissions
jorgensen
dentist
guitar
nonrenewable
panels
strawberries
academy
growtrups
harnessed

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The rare words in narrative & informational texts are from different kinds of networks.

Informational Text

Narrative/Literary Text

Core Vocabulary (2,500 word families)

Extended Vocabulary
The remaining thousands of English words

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Narrative Example: *The Storyteller's Candle*

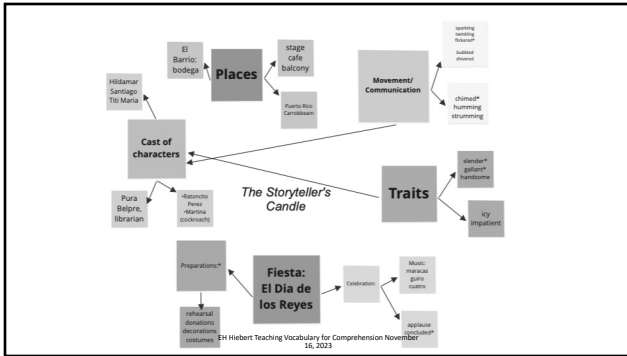
The children rehearsed the play, the dances, and the stories. Don Ramon donated boxes and crates from his **bodega** to make the decorations. The mothers from El Barrio met at church or the library to paint, cut, and paste.

Finally, by the evening of January 5th, the library was ready for Three Kings' Day.

The next day, everyone came from far and near. Outside, the snow was rising high. Inside the library, the logs burned in an open fireplace and the storyteller's candle flickered. The room bubbled with the voices of children and adults. Everyone spoke at once, in Spanish and in English.

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Rare Words in Narratives Are Almost Always From Synonym Groups

Target Word	Familiar Synonyms	More Complex Synonyms
slender	thin	lithe, svelte
chimed	ring	peal, toll
flickered	blink, spark	scintillate, oscillate

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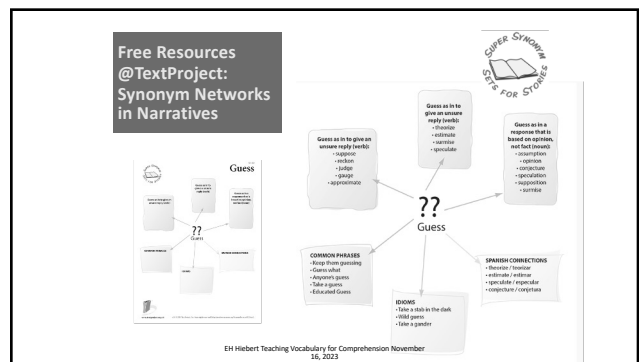
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Prolific Groups of Synonyms

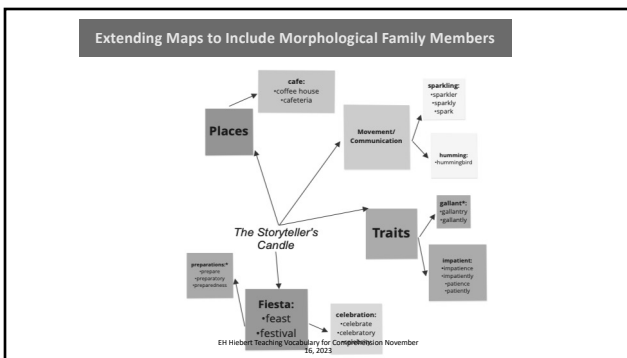
Communication/Internal Processes (verbs)	Emotions (adjectives)	Movement (verbs)	Traits (adjectives)
think	glad	go	funny
argue	sad	send	smart
observe	mad	start	brave
guess	selfish	stop	selfish
say	fear	stay	shy

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Informational Example: Energy Island

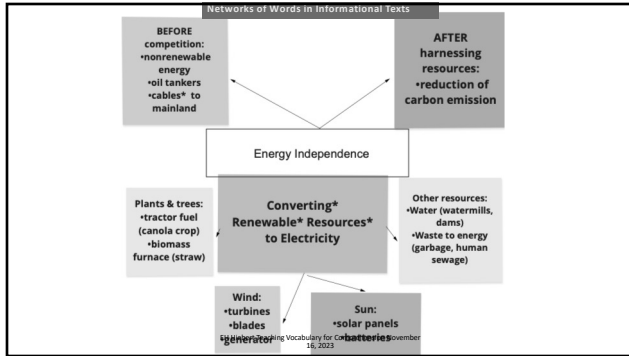
Renewable energy comes from resources that will never run out, or that can be replaced. For example, wind is a renewable resource, since the wind will always blow. Windmills were invented to catch that energy.

Rivers keep flowing all year, so they are also a source of renewable energy. People have been using dams, water mills, and other means of harnessing waterpower for thousands of years.

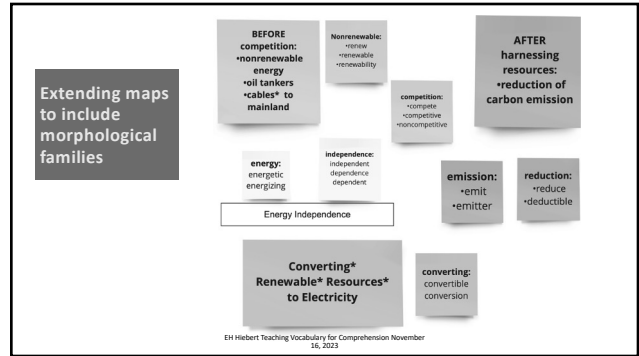
Sunlight, which can be converted into solar power, is another example of a renewable resource, and so are the plants and trees that can be harvested and converted into biofuels and then replanted.

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Free Resources @TextProject: Topic Networks in Informational Texts

Topic Word Pictures

Wind and Solar Energy

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Generator
(gen-er-a-tor)

Turbine
(tur-bine)

Definition: any of various machines having a rotor, usually with vanes or blades. Example: Wind farms have many turbines and each extracts some of the energy of the wind.

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Texts & Vocabulary Resources from TextProject (Open-Access)

RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS

Free Student Texts

- Grades K-1
- BeginningReads™
- Grades 2-5
- FYI for Kids
- SummerReads™
- Talking Points For Kids
- Middle School and Beyond
- Stories of Words
- TopicReads-Middle School

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