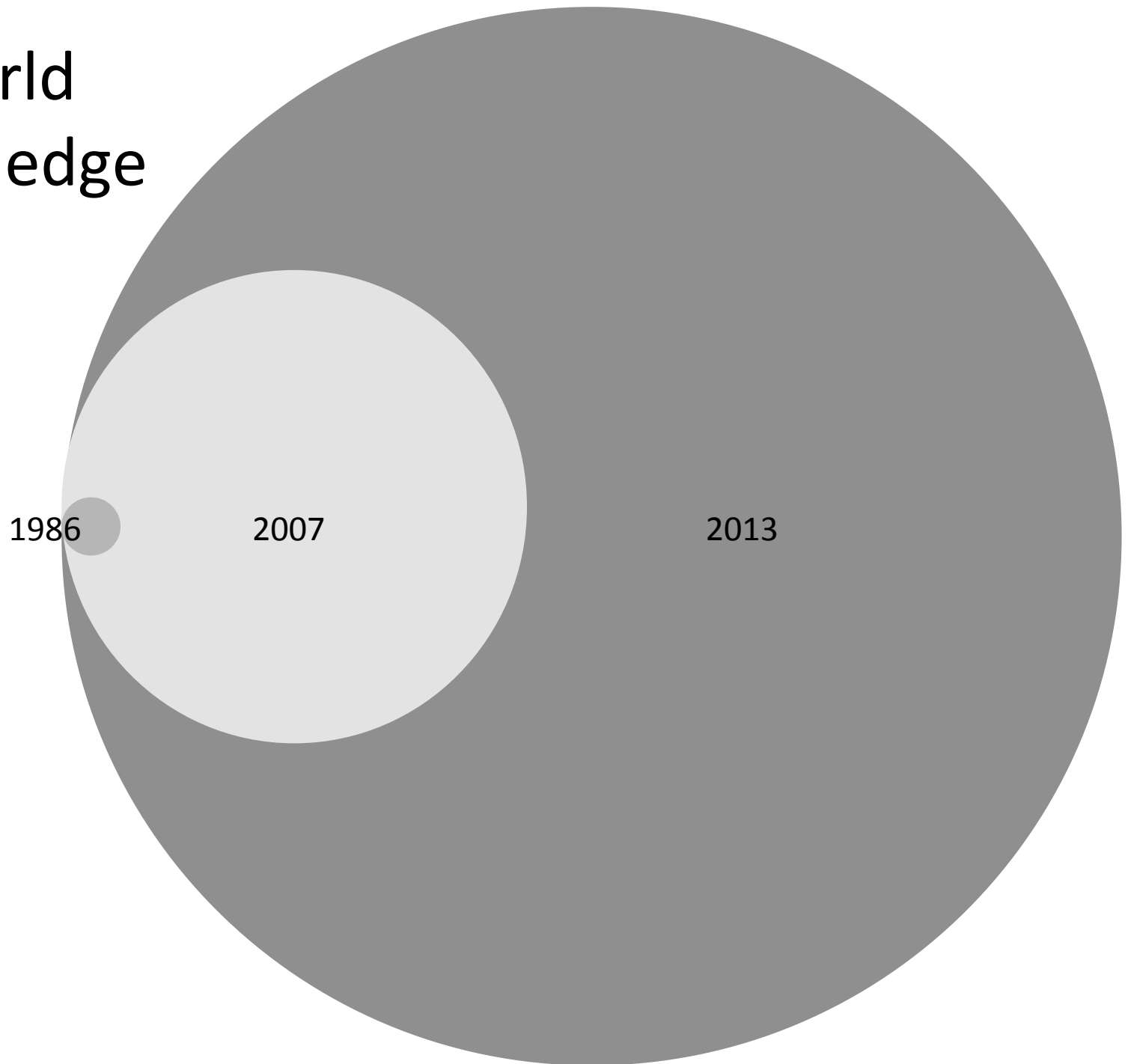
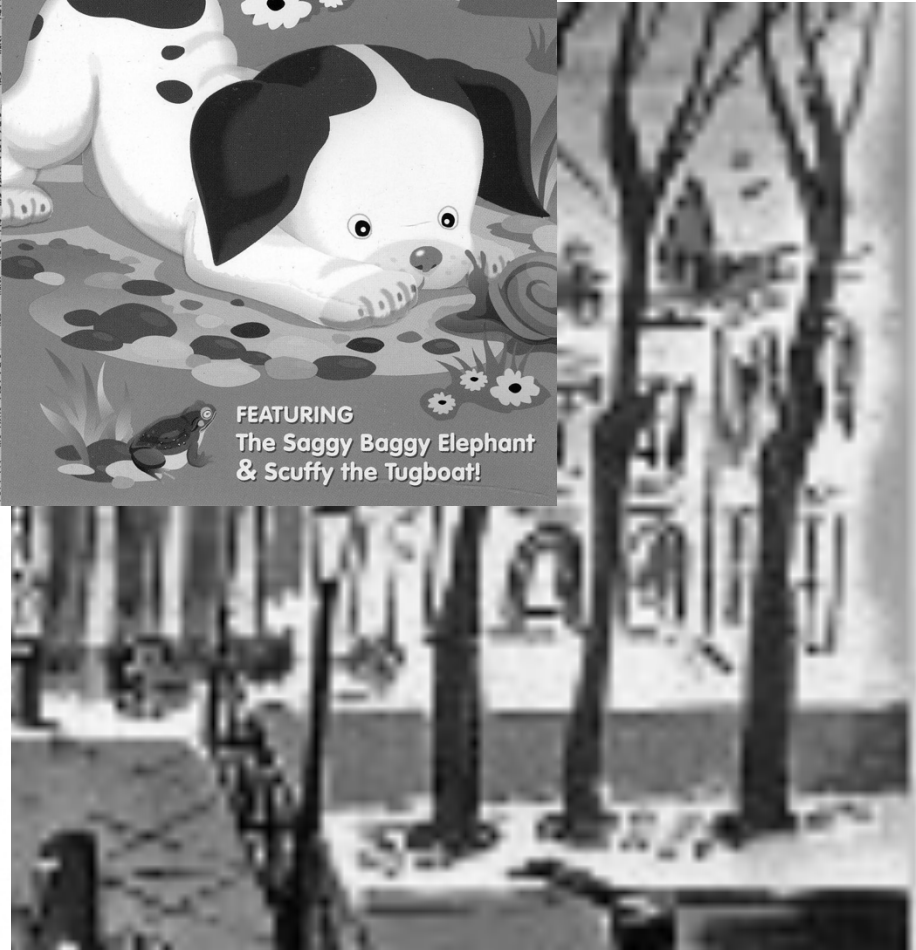
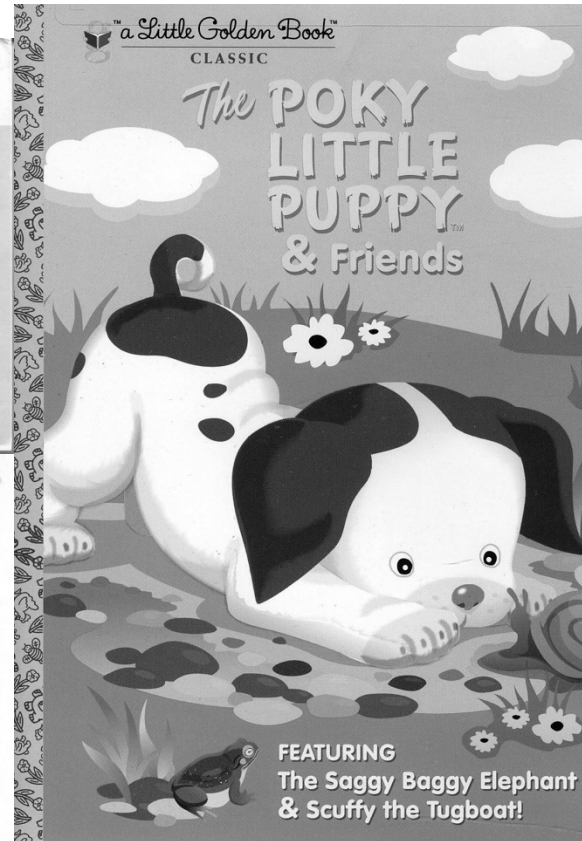


Unlocking the Knowledge in Complex Texts: Vocabulary and Reading Volume

Elfrieda H. Hiebert
TextProject &
University of California, Santa Cruz

World Knowledge

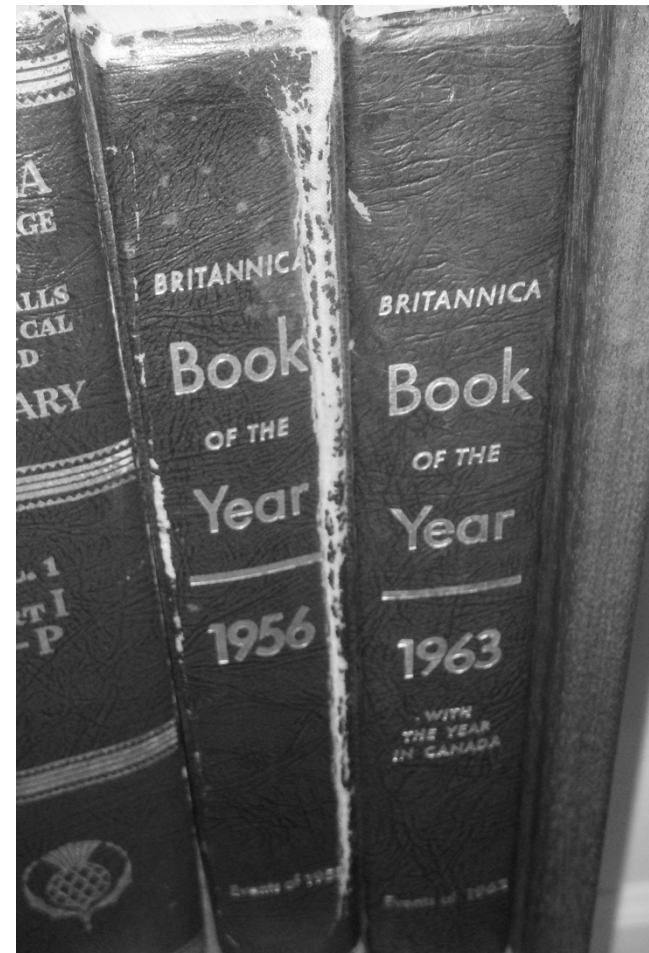
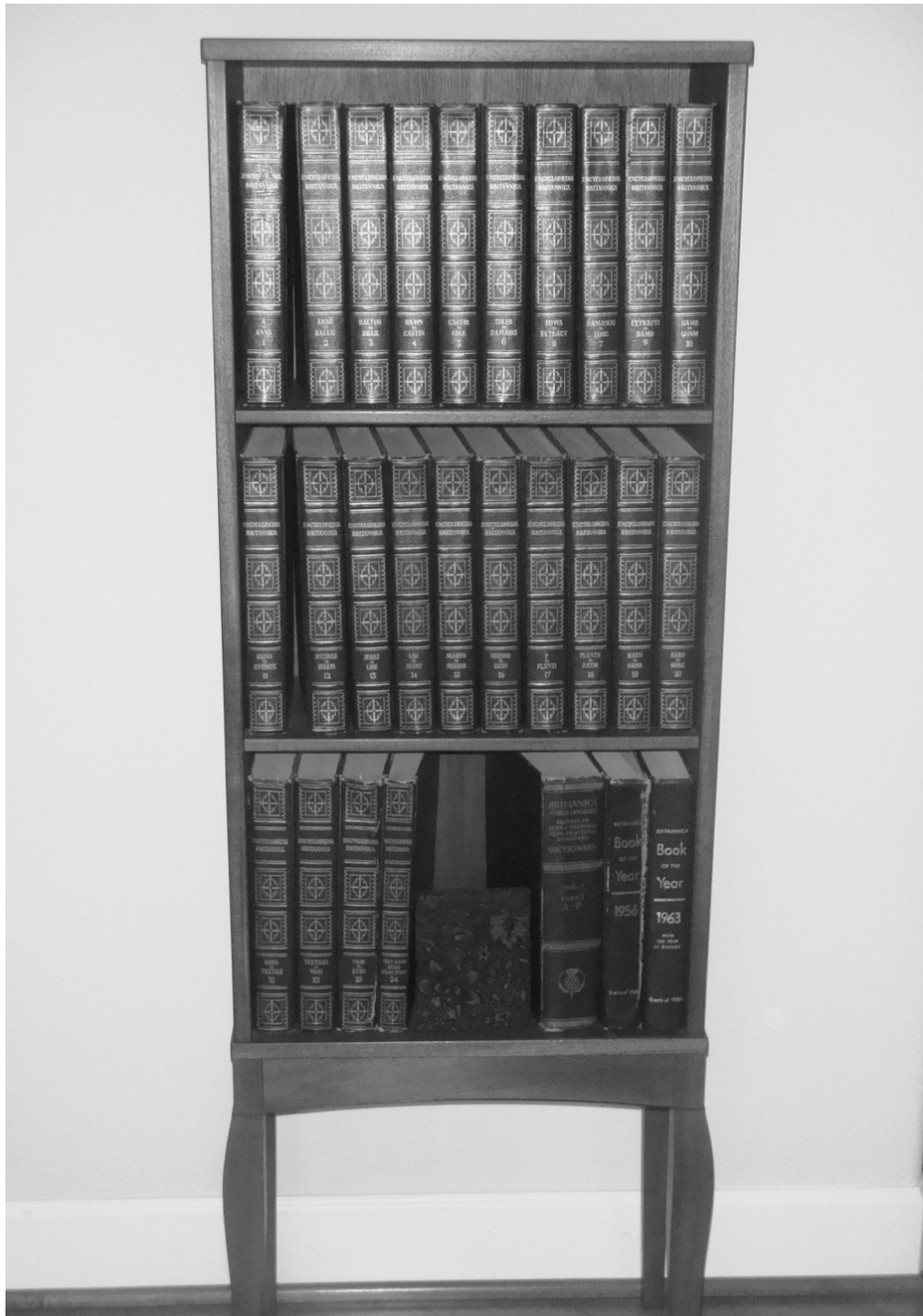




Tim Takes a Ride

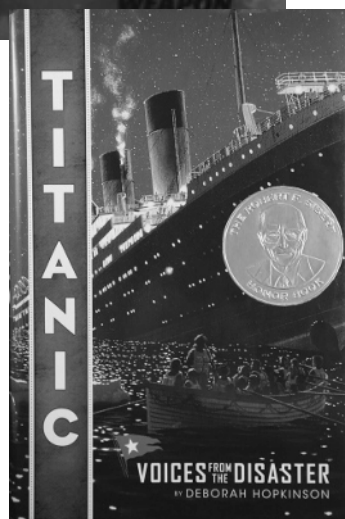
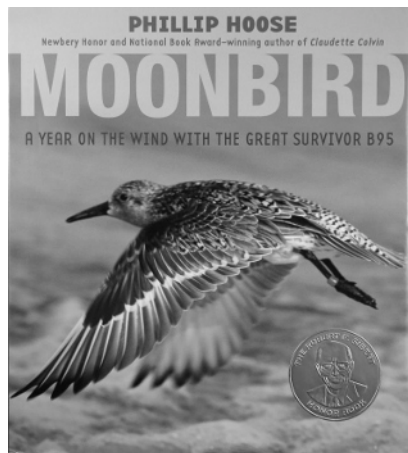
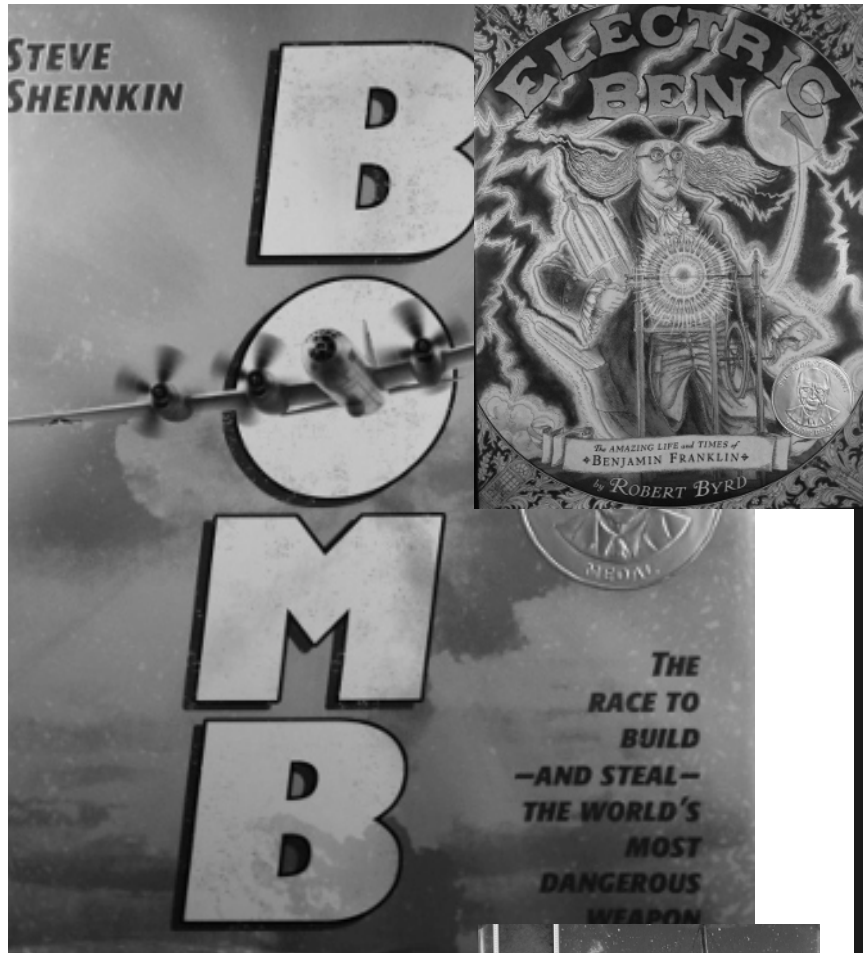
Dick said, "Look there, Pete.
There is Tim in Sally's car.
Let's do something funny with the car."

Pete said, "We will have to work fast.
We don't want Sally to see us."



Volume of Trade Books for Children: 1942 and 2012



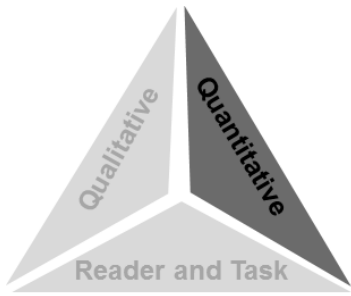




Standard 10:

Range, Quality, & Complexity of Student Reading

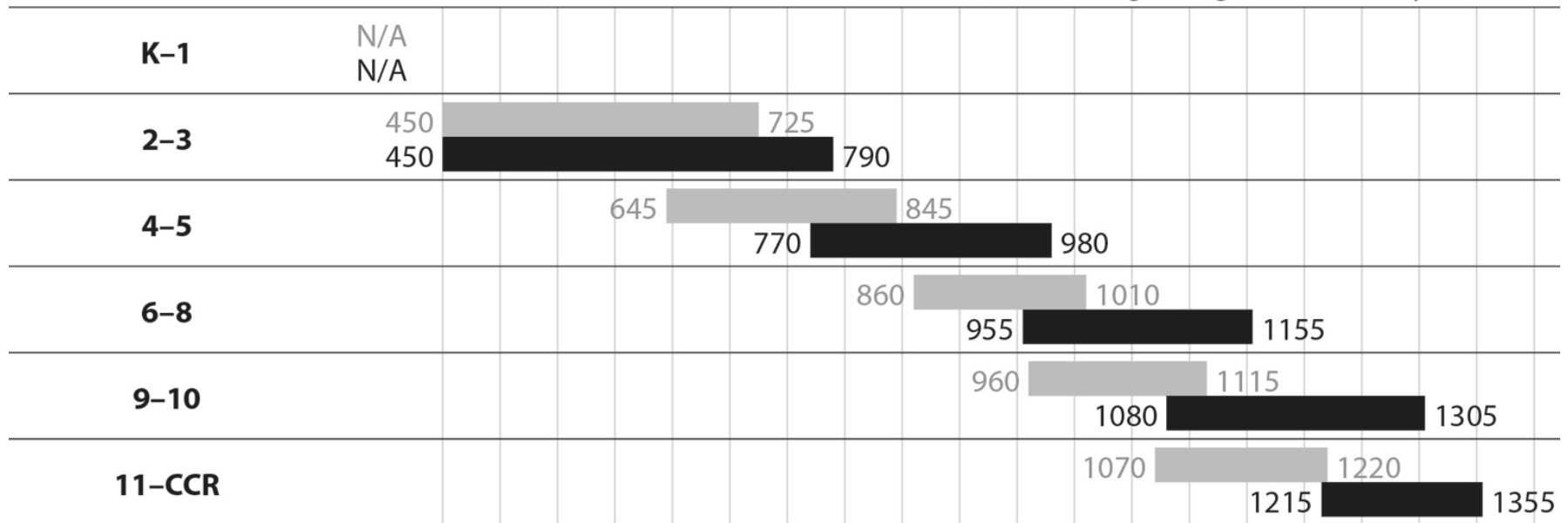
Grade 6 students:	Grade 7 students:	Grade 8 students:
Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity		
10. By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, in the grades 6–8 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.	10. By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, in the grades 6–8 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.	10. By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, at the high end of grades 6–8 text complexity band independently and proficiently.



The CCSS Staircase of Text Complexity

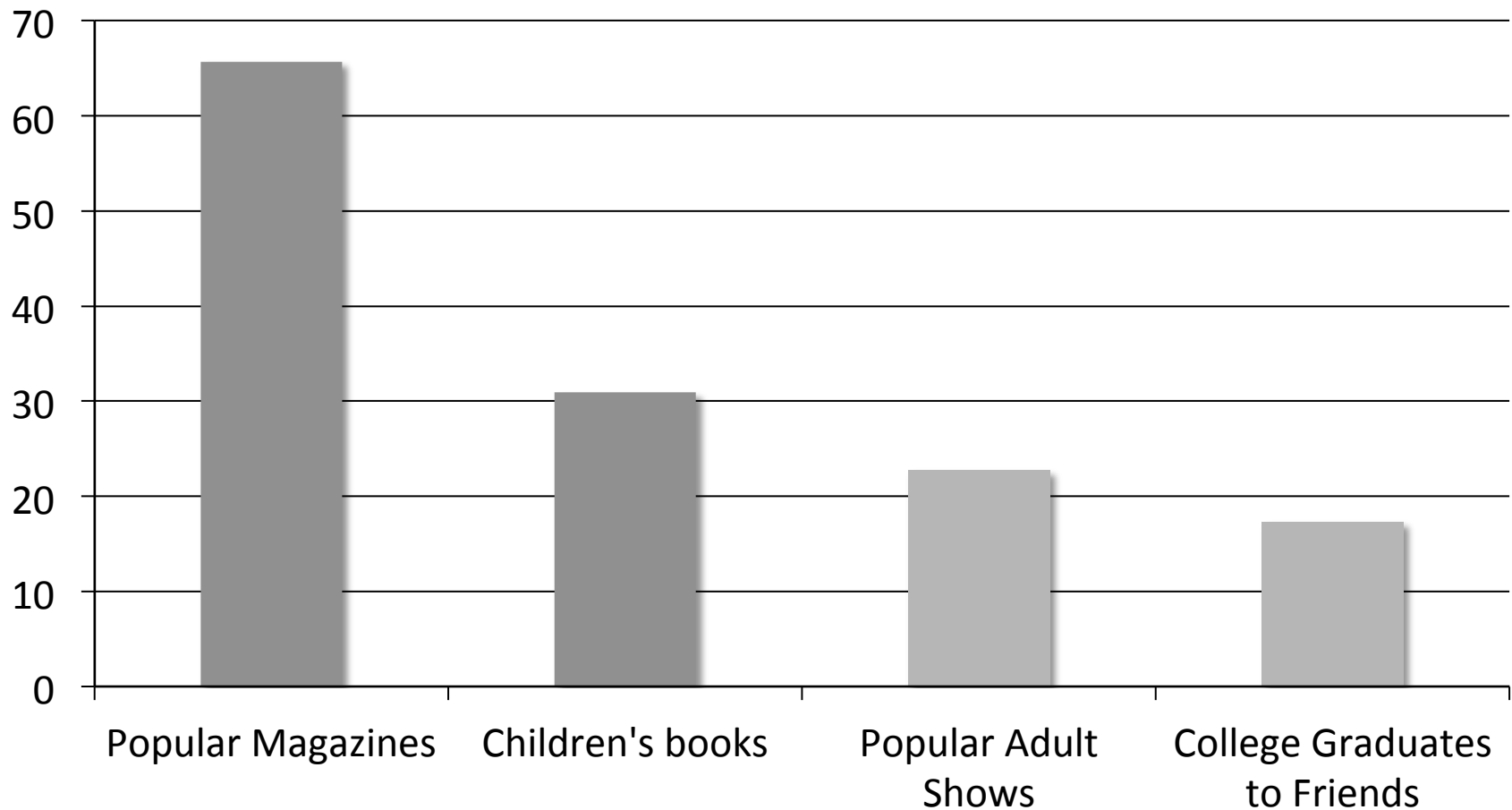
Text Complexity Grade
Band in the Standards

Old Lexile Ranges
Lexile Ranges Aligned to CCR Expectations



Hiebert, E.H. (October, 2010). *Anchoring Text Difficulty for the 21st Century: A Comparison of the Exemplars from the National Assessment of Educational Assessment and the Common Core State Standards* (Reading Research Report 10.02). Santa Cruz, CA: TextProject, Inc.

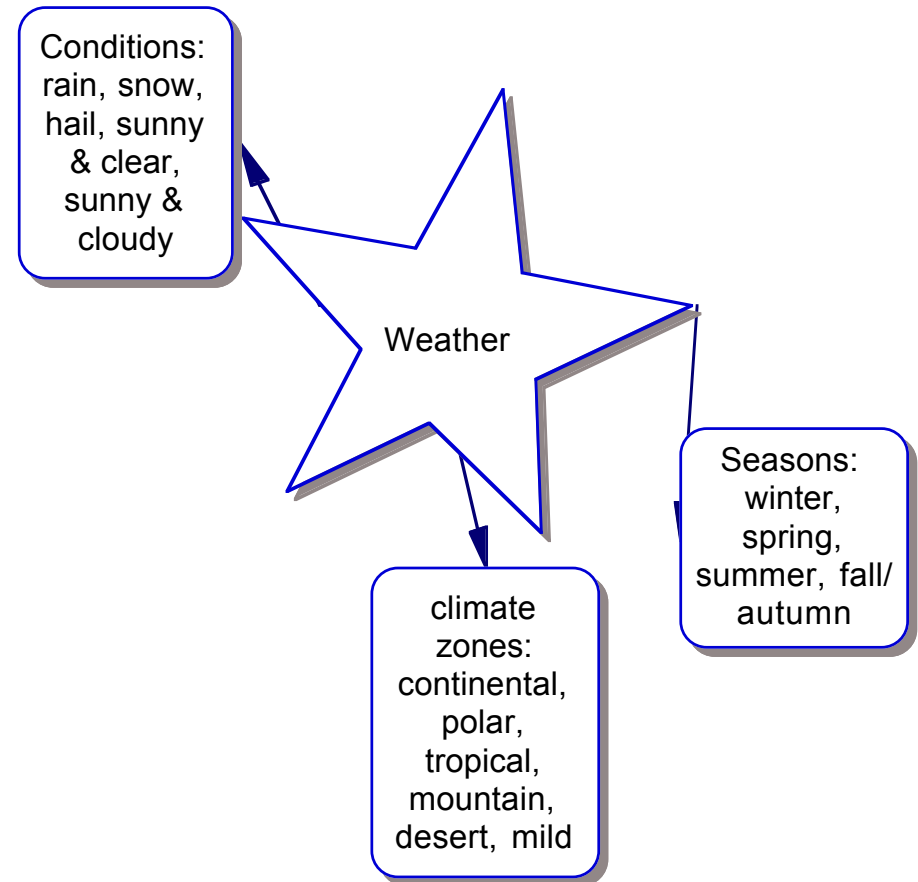
I. Words (and Concepts) are Developed & Extended in Texts (Rare words per 1,000)



(from Hayes & Ahrens, 1988)

Particular funds of knowledge are acquired solely through academic presentations (texts, lessons, selected media)

- Representational forms of government
- Photosynthesis
- Atom-splitting



Words & Knowledge

- Words are labels for concepts.
- As our knowledge grows, so does our vocabulary for understanding and expressing that knowledge

The Critical Role of Vocabulary from Reading for Understanding Network Study of Comprehension in Grades 7-12

Correlations between:

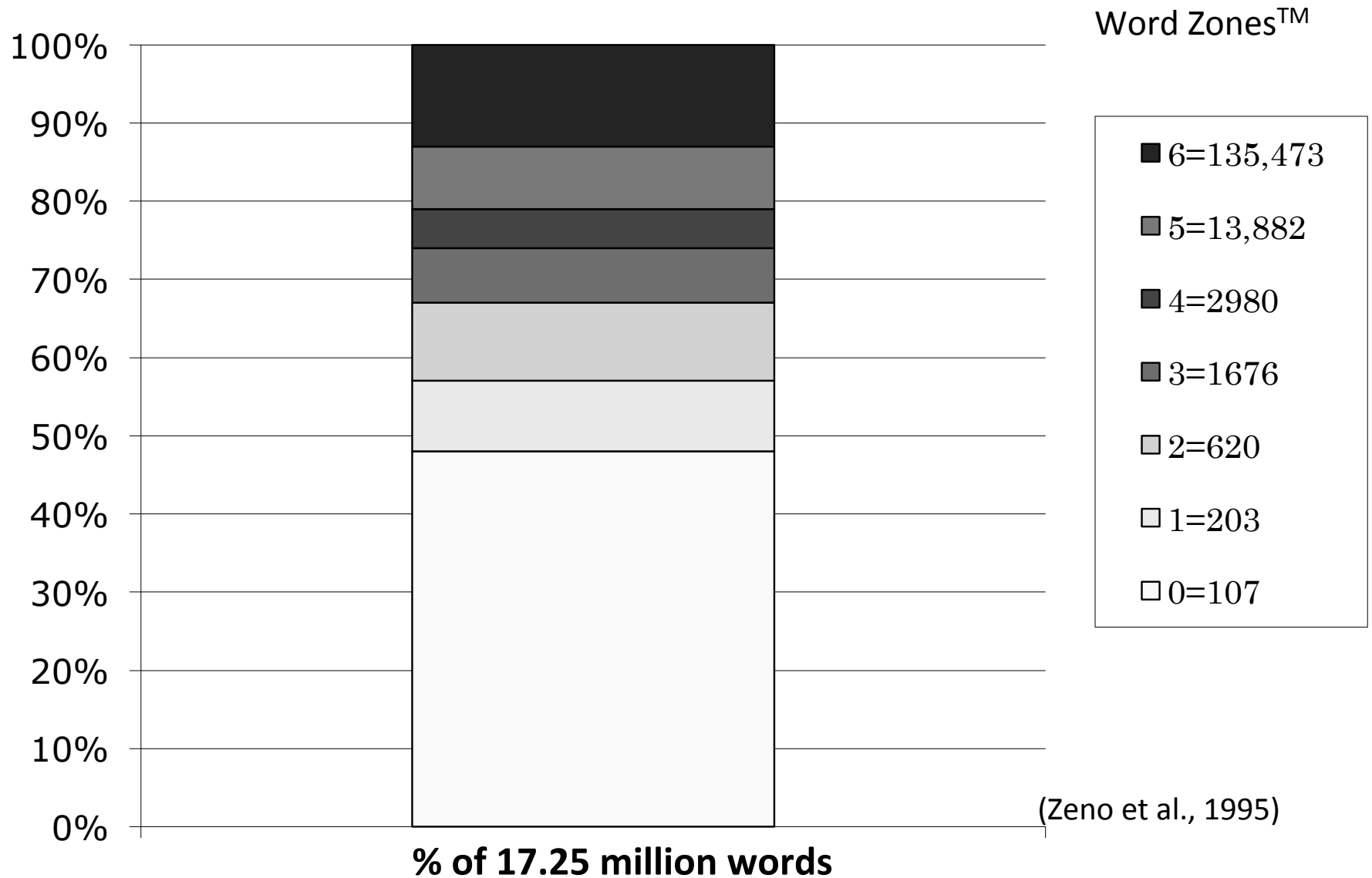
- Background Knowledge & Vocabulary 0.94
- Vocabulary & Comprehension 0.97

Slide is from the presentation of David Francis (April 19, 2013). CCSS Assessments and Students with Disabilities and English Language Learners. Plenary session at Institute on Assessment in the Era of the Common Core State Standards, International Reading Association.

“Zlateh the Goat” Vocabulary Words

Blanketed	Thickly covered
Blizzard	Heavy snowstorm
Cuddled	Hold someone closely in your arms
Dense	Crowded or thick
Experienced	Lived through something
Flakes	Thin, small pieces of something
Mighty	Having great strength or force
Mild	Not too harsh
Accustomed	Used to something
Bleating	Crying by a goat or a sheep
Consisted	Made up of
Frequently	Often
Hesitation	To pause before doing something
Regained	Got back; recovered
Resist	Refuse to accept; go against
Satisfaction	Feeling of being content
Confirm	Support or show to be correct
Involve	To include
Influence	Sway or affect in some other way
Investigate	To examine thoroughly

Distribution of Words in Textbooks



The Pyramid of English Words

**Greek/
Latin**

**Specialized words in
sciences: New Words
by compounding
“equal” word parts:
geopolitical**

Romance

**Most literary and academic words
New Words through derivations: frigidity,
frigidness, refrigerator**

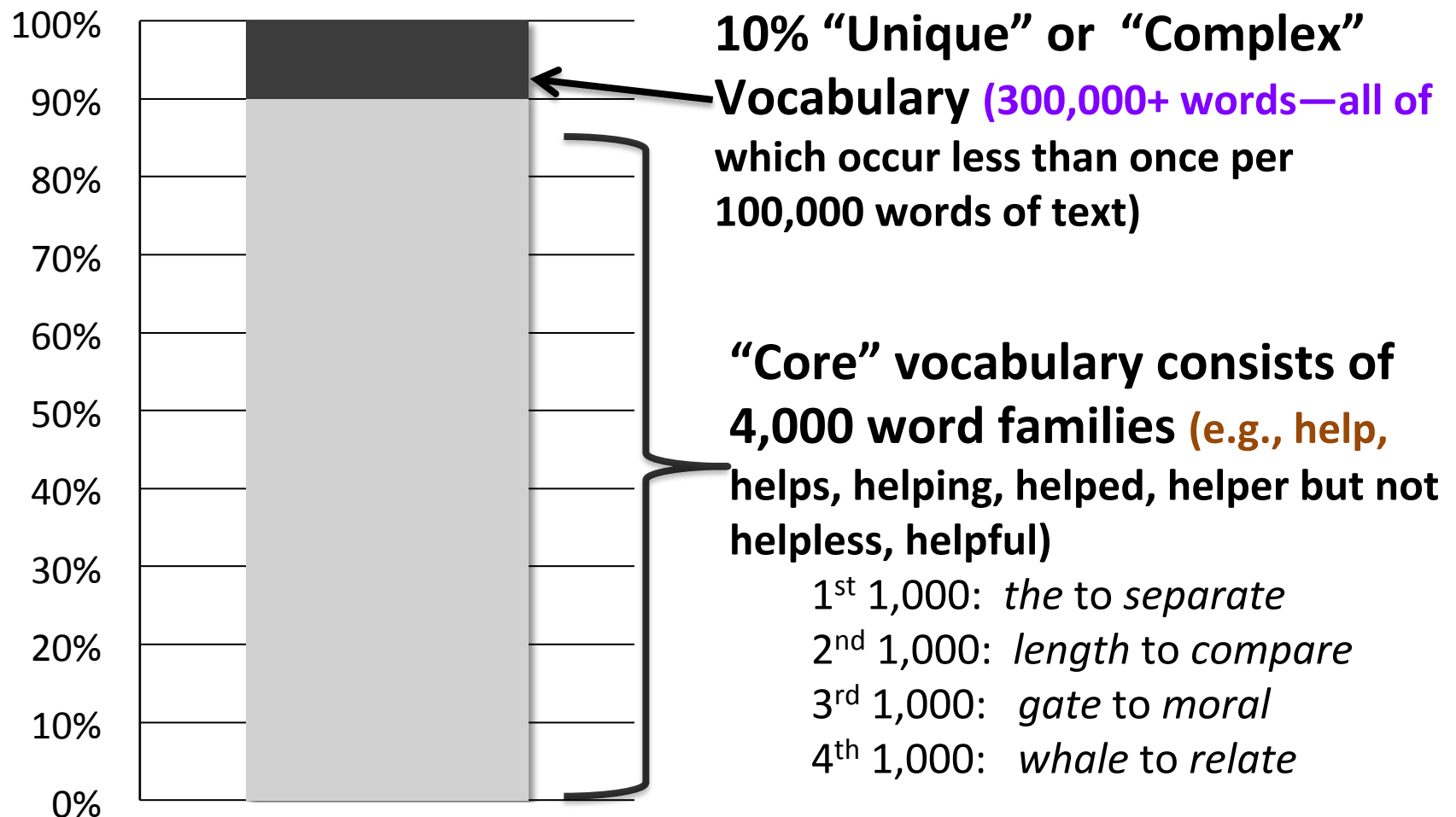
Anglo-Saxon

**Common, everyday, down-to-earth words
New Words through compounding: cold-blooded, cold-natured,
cold-drink, cold-running**

Academic & Literary Vocabulary & Spanish Cognates
(*Charlotte's Web*, Chapters 1 & 2)

English	Spanish
adoring	adorando
absolutely	absolutamente
appetite	apetito
demanded	demanda
difference	diferencia
distribute	distribuir
enchanted	encantado
infant	infantil
injustice	injusticia
miserable	miserable
peaceful	pacífico
selecting	seleccionar
suggested	sugerido

Proportion of Vocabulary

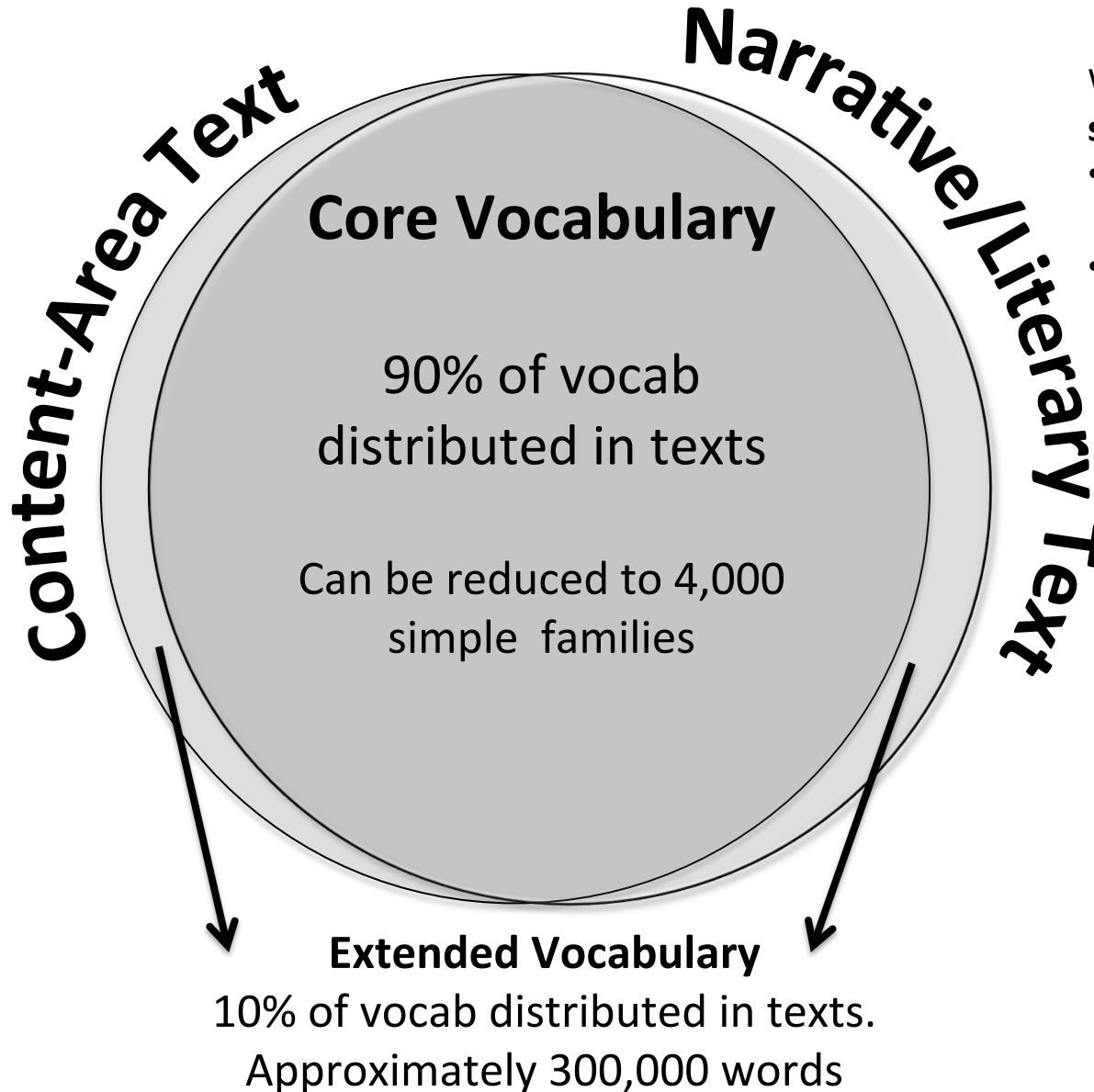


Core Vocabulary in Common Core Exemplars

Grade	Narrative	Informational
2-3	.93	.92
4-5	.92	.91
6-8	.93	.87
9-10	.89	.91
11-CCR	.89	.87

90-10 Vocabulary Distribution in Texts

Words belong to **conceptual** networks such as habitat of a spider, body parts of a spider.



Words belong to **semantic** networks

- communicating (*shriek, yell*)
- emotions (*relieved, angry*)
- motion/action (*tagged along*).

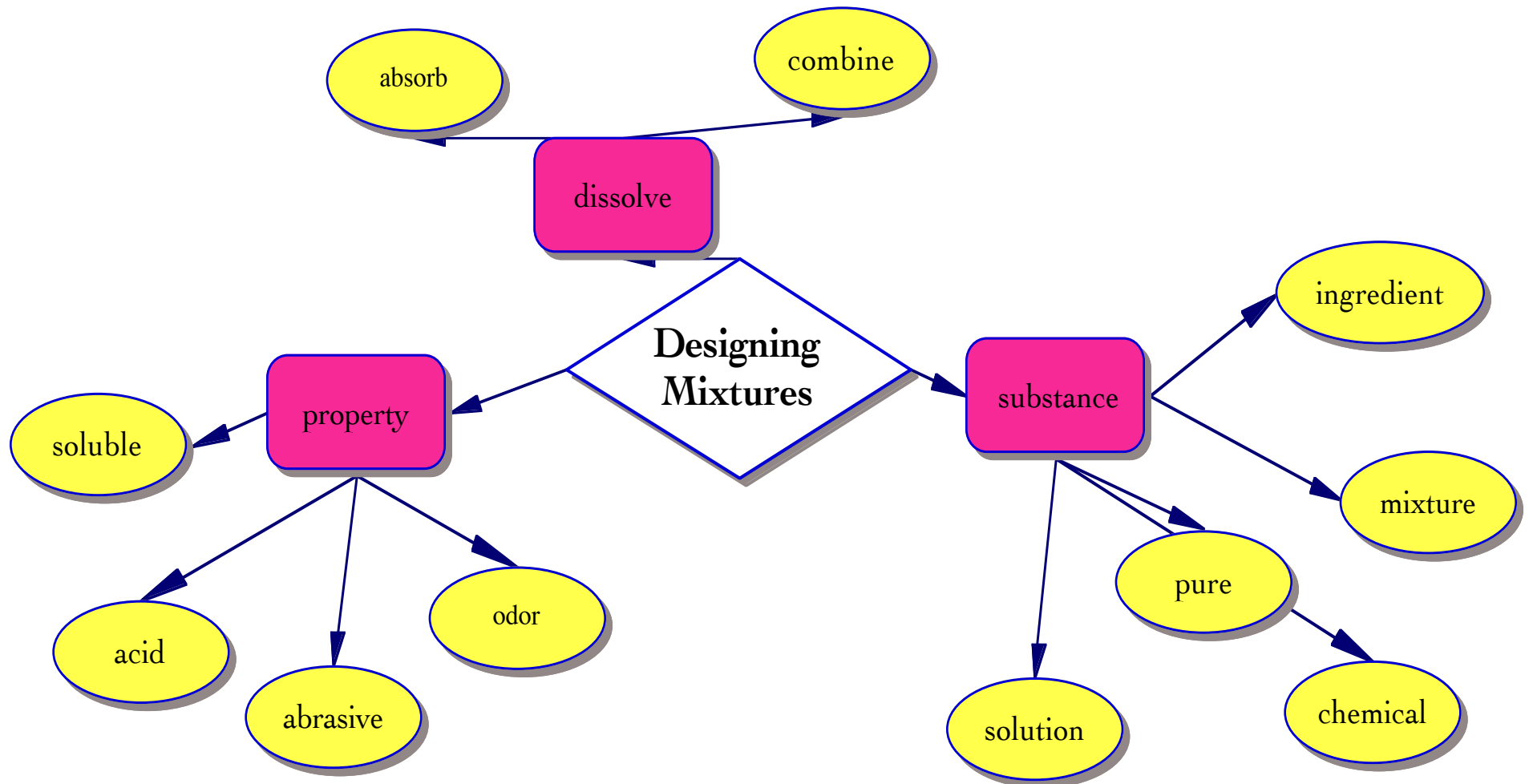
Vocabulary in Previous Standards

Content Area	Sample Words
Civics	abuse of power, campaign, elected representative, geographical representation, individual liberty, Labor Day, national origin, patriotism, school board, Uncle Sam, welfare
English Language Arts	abbreviation, capitalization, e-mail, genre, illustration, learning log, paragraph, reading strategy, table, verb
Geography	billboards, discovery, fall line, harbor, Japan, land clearing, national capital, Pacific rim, rain forest, technology, vegetation region
Mathematics	addend, capacity, equation, gram, improbability, mass, obtuse angle, quotient, sample, unit conversion
Science	bedrock, Earth's axis, gases, inherited characteristic, magnetic attraction, ocean currents, recycle, technology, water capacity

Content-Area Text

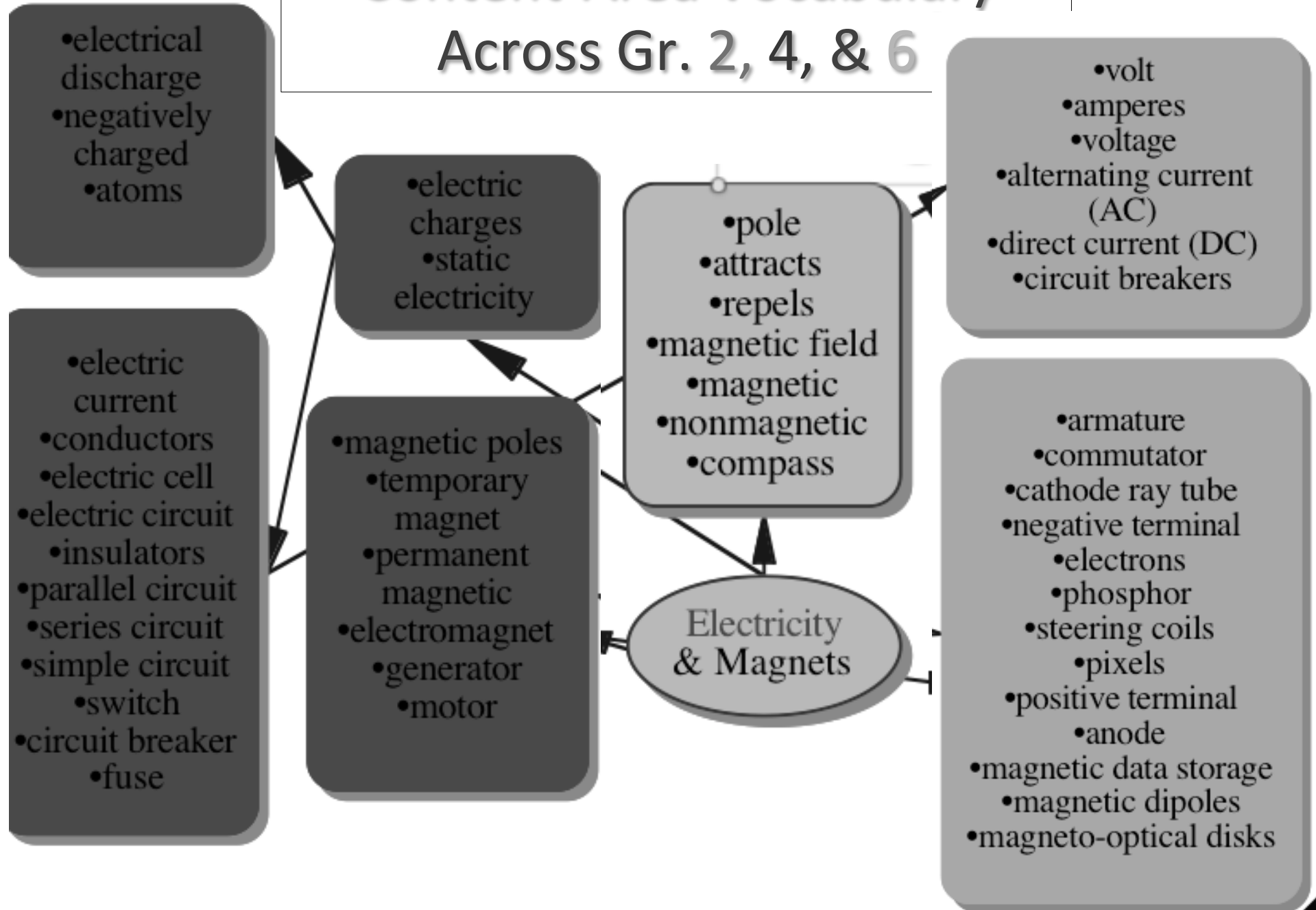
Embryological studies show that each **batch** of four is the result of a single **fertilized** egg, which divides twice. Each of the four resulting cells develops into a **miniature armadillo** which is born in early spring some six months after the adults have mated. All members of a young **brood** are of the same sex. Young **armadillos** have their shell covering complete, but it remains soft until they become adults, thus allowing for growth.

Teaching Content-Area Vocabulary: An Illustration



Content-Area Vocabulary

Across Gr. 2, 4, & 6



Narrative/Literary Text

The smaller girl created a **diversion** by beginning to **recite** "On the Road to **Mandalay**." She only knew the first line, but she put her limited knowledge to the fullest possible use. She repeated the line over and over again in a dreamy but **resolute** and very **audible** voice;

.....

"Mud color all over, with a black tongue and pale grey eyes that **gleamed** with **unspeakable ferocity**. The first thing that it saw in the park was **Bertha**; her **pinafore** was so **spotlessly** white

Teaching Narrative/Literary Words

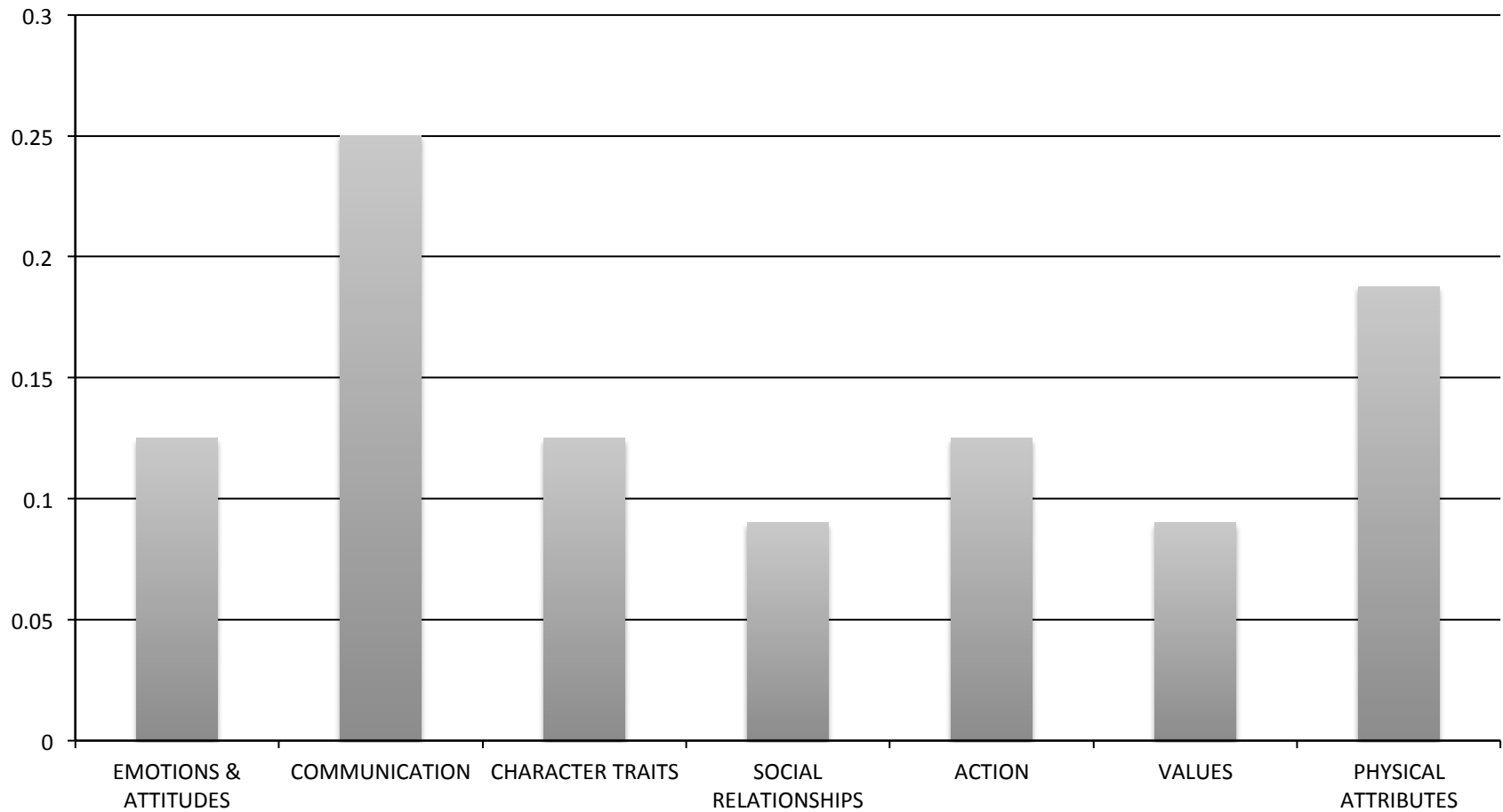
Story Word	Examples of Words in Cluster (Beyond Story)
amazed	enchanted enthralled spellbound captivated transfixed
fascinated	
marveled	
baffled	confused mystified perplexed confounded
bewildered	
stumped	

Rare words in Chapters 1-2

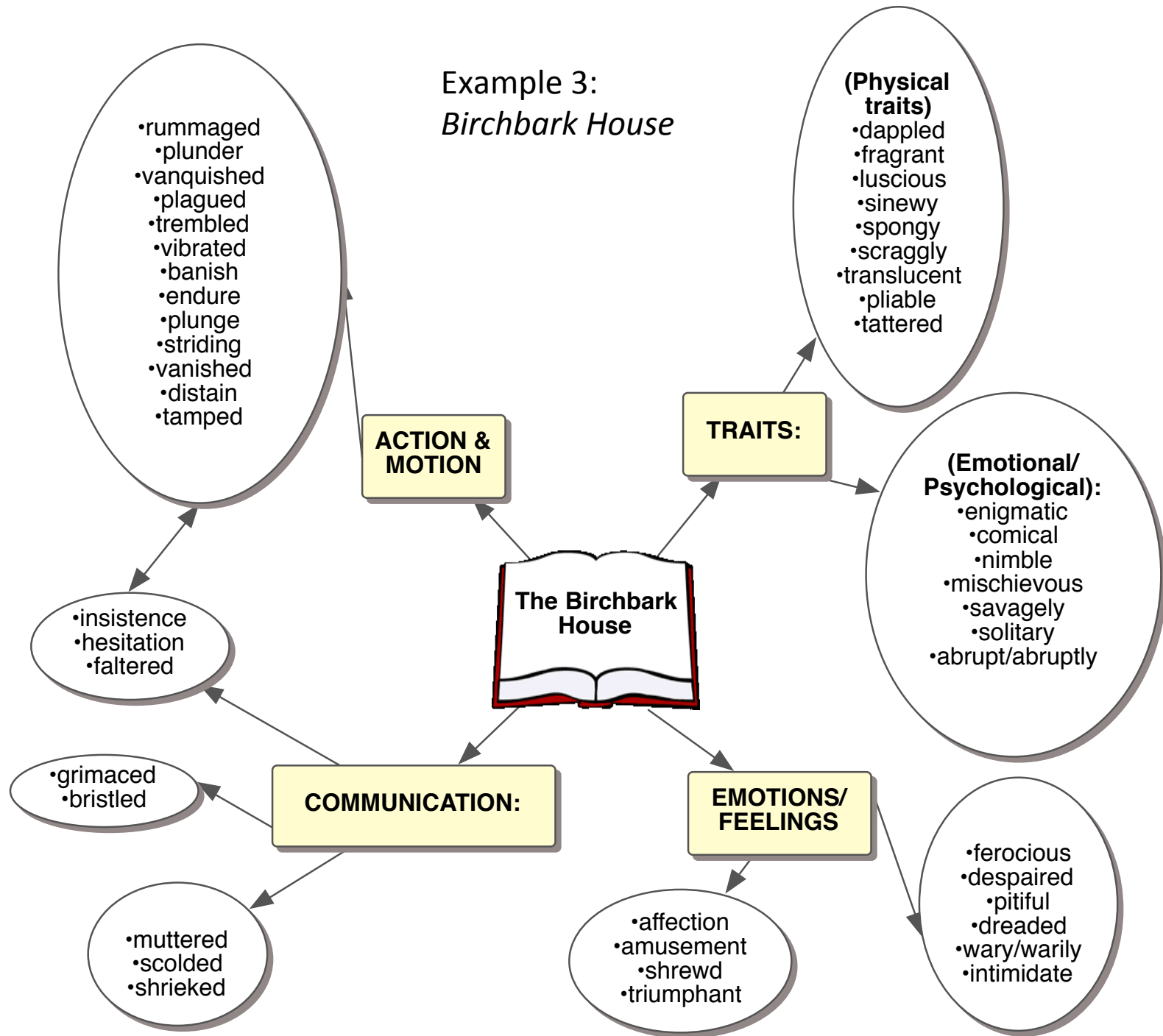
(The Birchbark House)

	Unique Words/Total Words	Rare Words
Birchbark	1,557/5,718	345 (about 6 unique per 100 words)

Categories of Unique Words in Narrative Texts



Example 3:
Birchbark House



And a Word About Evidence-Based Practice: Vocabulary needs to be pronounced

Injustice (in jus tice)

- injustice starts the way you'd expect:
 - in like in
 - jus like bus
 - The last part (syllable) is different than you'd expect. You might think it would be like mice but it's not. It is a short i and the ce makes the sound that usually goes with the letter s
- If you know Spanish: injusticia

Prolific Groups in Narrative/Literary Texts

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

32 lessons
available for *free*
download



E4-01

Listen

Exceptional Expressions for Everyday Events

An everyday event in classrooms revolves around listening—listening to peers, teachers, CDs, DVDs, announcements on the school sound system, and so on. Listening is an integral part of learning.

Listen is typically used as a verb. For example, teachers may ask students to listen carefully to a guest speaker. In this instance, **listen** is used as “to hear attentively.” Another use of the word **listen** can be exemplified by a student complaining to a friend or teacher that someone isn’t listening to what is being said. In this instance, **listen** is used to describe the act of paying attention. This second use of **listen** is as a command as when someone says, “Listen! It’s important to hear the announcement.”

Although **listen** is commonly used as a verb, **listen** can also be used as a noun. A person can ask that someone give an idea or a song a listen. In this case, **listen** is used to describe trying something out by listening to it.

Follow-Ups

- How is listening different from hearing?
- How might vigilant listening differ from observant listening? Listening circumspectly and listening respectfully?
- What are some things we can do to help others listen to our ideas?

The Spanish Connection

Listen comes from an Old English word that was spoken in the northern region of the British Isles—*lysna*. The Spanish word that means **to listen** is *escuchar*. *Lysna* and *escuchar* are not cognates. None of the synonyms for **listen** have Spanish cognates.

Word Changes

- The idiom “lend me your ears” comes from Shakespeare’s *JULIUS CAESAR*. The meaning of the idiom is to ask people to listen to what is about to be said. The idea is that the speaker wants the listener’s undivided attention and is asking for the listener’s metaphorical ears.



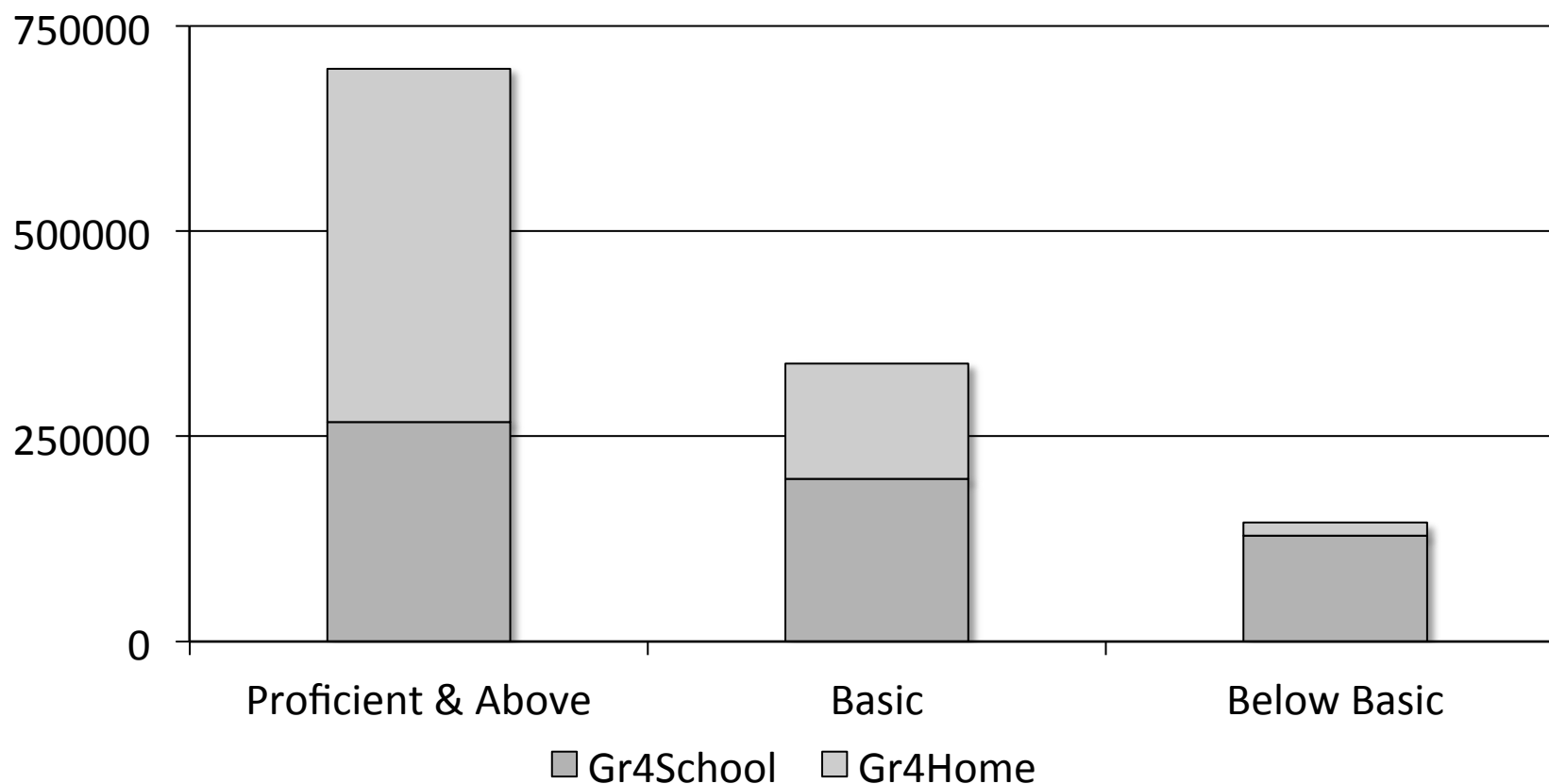
II. VOLUME MATTERS IN READING COMPLEX TEXTS

The Story of Three Fourth Graders*

	Alex	Alice	Abby
Daily time spent reading in school (yearly)	7.2 minutes	11 minutes	15 minutes
Daily amount read (yearly)	715 (128,700)	1,100 (198,000)	1,485 (267,300)
# exposures to academic vocabulary over school year	6.4	9.9	13.4
#new rare words encountered	3,861	5,940	8,019
Likely acquired new words (with morphological family members)	290 (1,160)	446 (1,784)	601 (2,406)

*assumption that all three are reading at the same rate: 100wpm

Typical Amounts Read in School & at Home

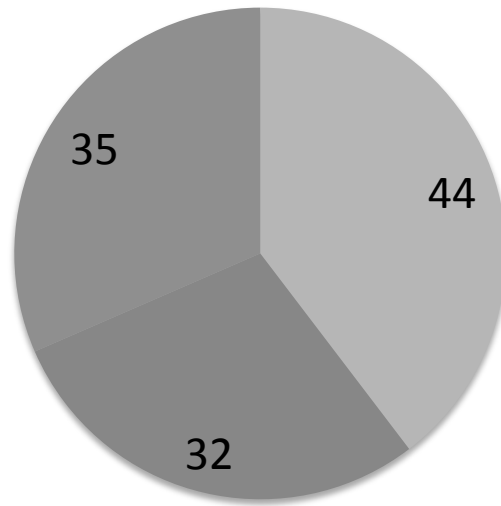


Home: Anderson, R.C., P.T. Wilson, and L.G. Fielding. 1988. Growth in reading and how children spend their time outside of school. *Reading Research Quarterly* 23(3):285-303.

School: Guthrie, J.T., Schafer, W.D., Huang, C.W. (2001), Benefits of opportunity to read and balanced instruction on the NAEP. *Journal of Educational Research*, 84, 145-162.

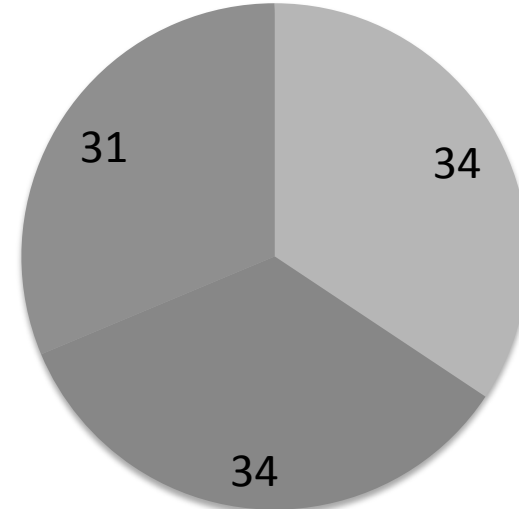
NAEP 2111(Reading)

CA 4th grade



■ Below Basic
■ Basic
■ Advanced/Proficient

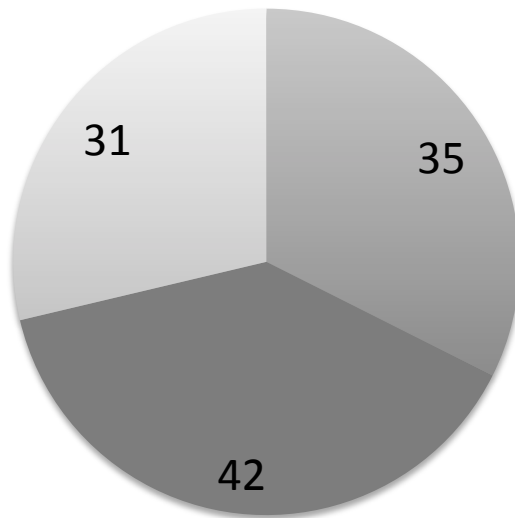
National 4th grade



■ Below Basic
■ Basic
■ Advanced/Proficient

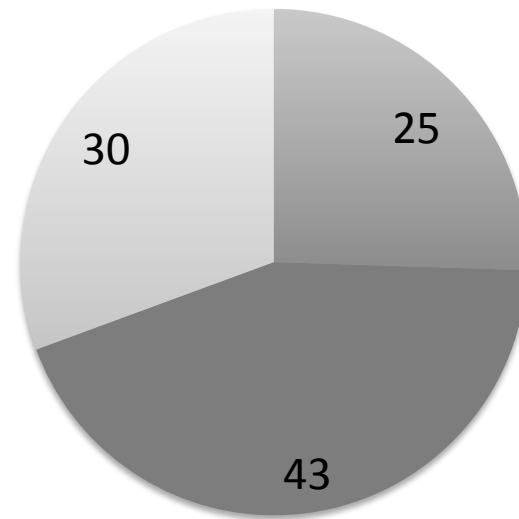
NAEP 2011 (Reading)

CA 8th grade



■ Below Basic
■ Basic
■ Advanced/Proficient

National 8th Grade



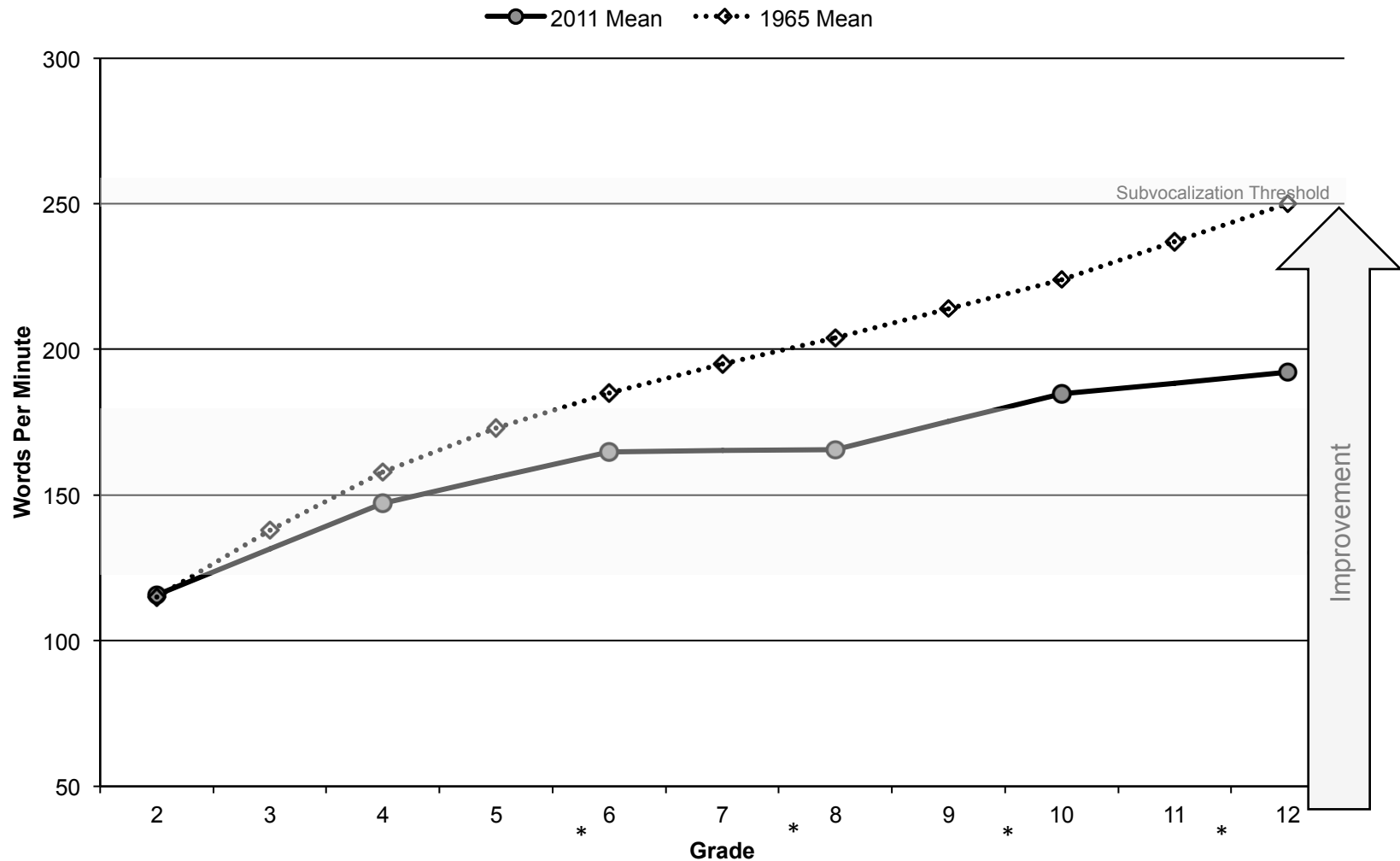
■ Below Basic
■ Basic
■ Advanced/Proficient

Data from Reading 1st Classrooms

- Time spent on reading instruction increased by 100%
- Time spent on students with “eyes on text” increased by about 15%

[Brenner, Hiebert, & Tompkins, 2009]

What are the mean *Comprehension-Based Silent Reading Rate* performances in 2011 compared with 1965?



Spictig, Hiebert, Pearson, Radach (April 2013)

* Difference between 2011 and 1965 is significant at $p < .001$

TEXT LENGTH AND DIFFICULTY

12

Grade	PARCC	SBAC
3	200-800 wds	650 wds
4-5	200-800 wds	750 wds
6-8	400-1000 wds	950 wds
9-11	500-1500 wds	1100 wds

- SBAC calls for texts on grade level for “Reading” questions (CAT) and one grade below level for “Writing” (Perf)
- PARCC uses grade level rubrics to identify texts as “very complex, moderately complex, or readily accessible”

ADMINISTRATION TIME & SESSIONS

11

Grade	PARCC	SBAC
3	EOY: 60 min. x 2 sessions Perf: 40-60 min. per task TOTAL: Approx 4.5 hours	CAT: 1 hr 45 min Perf: 35 min (stimulus + research Q's; 70 min writing prompt) TOTAL = Approx. 3.5 hours
4-5	EOY: 70 min. x 2 sessions Perf: 50-80 min per task TOTAL: Approx 5 hrs 50 min	CAT: 1 hr. 45 min Perf: 35 min (stimulus + research Q's; 70 min writing prompt) TOTAL = Approx. 3.5
6-8	EOY: 70 min x 2 sessions Perf: 50-85 min. per task TOTAL: Approx. 5 hrs 55 min	CAT: 1 hr. 45 min Perf: 35 min (stimulus + research Q's; 70 min writing prompt) TOTAL = Approx. 3.5
9-11	EOY: 70 min x 2 sessions Perf: 50-85 min. per task TOTAL: Approx. 5 hrs 55 min	CAT: 2 hr. Perf: 35 min (stimulus + research Q's; 85 min writing prompt) TOTAL = Approx. 4 hours

From K. K. Wixson (April 2013). Key shifts in assessment and instruction related to CCSS/ELA (<http://textproject.org/events/common-core-state-standards-webinar-series/key-shifts-in-assessment-and-instruction-related-to-ccss-ela/>)

THREE WAYS TO INCREASE STAMINA:

1. Give Students' Responsibility for Reading Texts

When 10-year old **Amelia** Mary **Earhart** saw her first plane at a state fair, she was not impressed. "It was a thing of **rusty** wire and wood and looked not at all interesting," she said. It wasn't until **Earhart** attended a **stunt** flying **exhibition**, almost a decade later, that she became seriously interested in **aviation**.

2. Guide Students in Reading Beyond the Assigned Texts & in Developing Areas of Expertise

Example: (Un)Homework: Reading popular, thematically related books

	Genre/ Theme	Shared Text	
Third Grade	American Tall Tales	American Tall Tales (Mary Pope Osbourne)	• Casey Jones: The story of a brave engineer (G. Rounds) • The Morning the Sun Refused to Rise: An original Paul Bunyan Tale (G. Rounds) • Baloney (J. Scieszka) • I was Born about 10,000 Years Ago: A tall tale (S. Kellogg) • John Henry: An American legend (E.J. Keats) • Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind Crockett (S. Kellogg) • Dona Flor: A tall tale about a giant woman with a great big heart (P. Mora) • Thunder Rose (J. Nolan)
Second Grade	Discovering Nature	The Raft (Jim LaMarche)	• Fireflies (J. Brinckloe) • Owl Moon (J. Yolen) • Come on, Rain! (K. Hesse) • When I Was Young In The Mountains (C. Rylant) • Night in the Country (C. Rylant) • Crab Moon (R. Horowitz) • The Seashore Book (C. Zolotow) • Whose Tracks are these? (J. Nail) • Over in the Forest (M. Berkes) • A Drop of Water (W. Wick) • Water Dance (T. Locker)

3. Work with Students in Setting Goals for Increased Stamina & Reading

Goal: Increase the amount of “deliberate reading” (reading of instructionally appropriate texts) in classrooms by 10% per trimester of the school year.

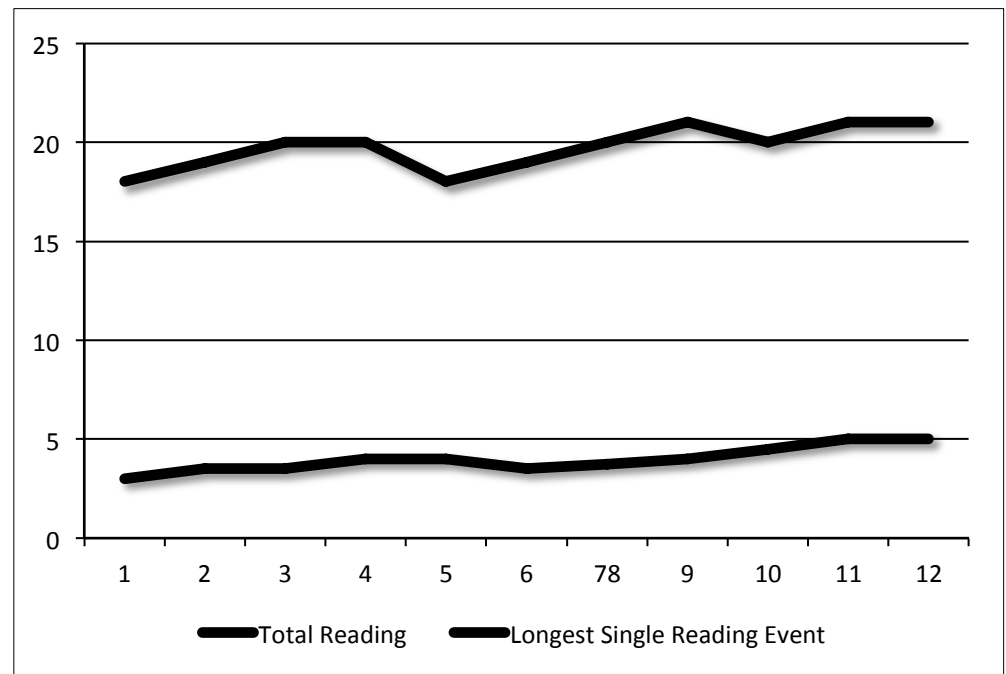
Step 1: Get baseline data:

- Establish the length of time that students are reading: 20 minutes daily
- Establish the length of the “average” silent reading event: 4 minutes

Step 2: Set the goal (explicitly with students in grades 3 and above; implicitly with students in grades 2 and below)

- Goal for trimester: 22 minutes reading a day, with the single event: 5 minutes

Step 3: Always keep a record of what you’ve learned from reading



Record of what I learned from reading:

- Fibonacci patterns (I read *Blockhead; Patterns of Nature*)
- Musicians (*John’s Secret Dreams; Lives of the Musicians*)

What 7 Minutes of Extra Reading Mean

- Kuhn & Schwanenflugel (2009):
 - Data from the seven classes most successful in increasing reading rate were compared to 7 least successful classes: students in former read 7 minutes more daily than students in latter.
- Average 3rd grader:
 - 127 words per minute x 7 minutes x 180 school days:
160,020 additional words
 - Using Hayes & Ahren's (1988) data (31 rare/new words per 1,000): **5,000 additional words**

Vocabulary & Volume in the Pursuit of Knowledge

Talking
Points

For
Kids



- Example 1: Magazine Reading:
 - FYI for Kids, TP4K (free downloads at TextProject.org)

- Example 2: ReadingPlus

reading  plus®

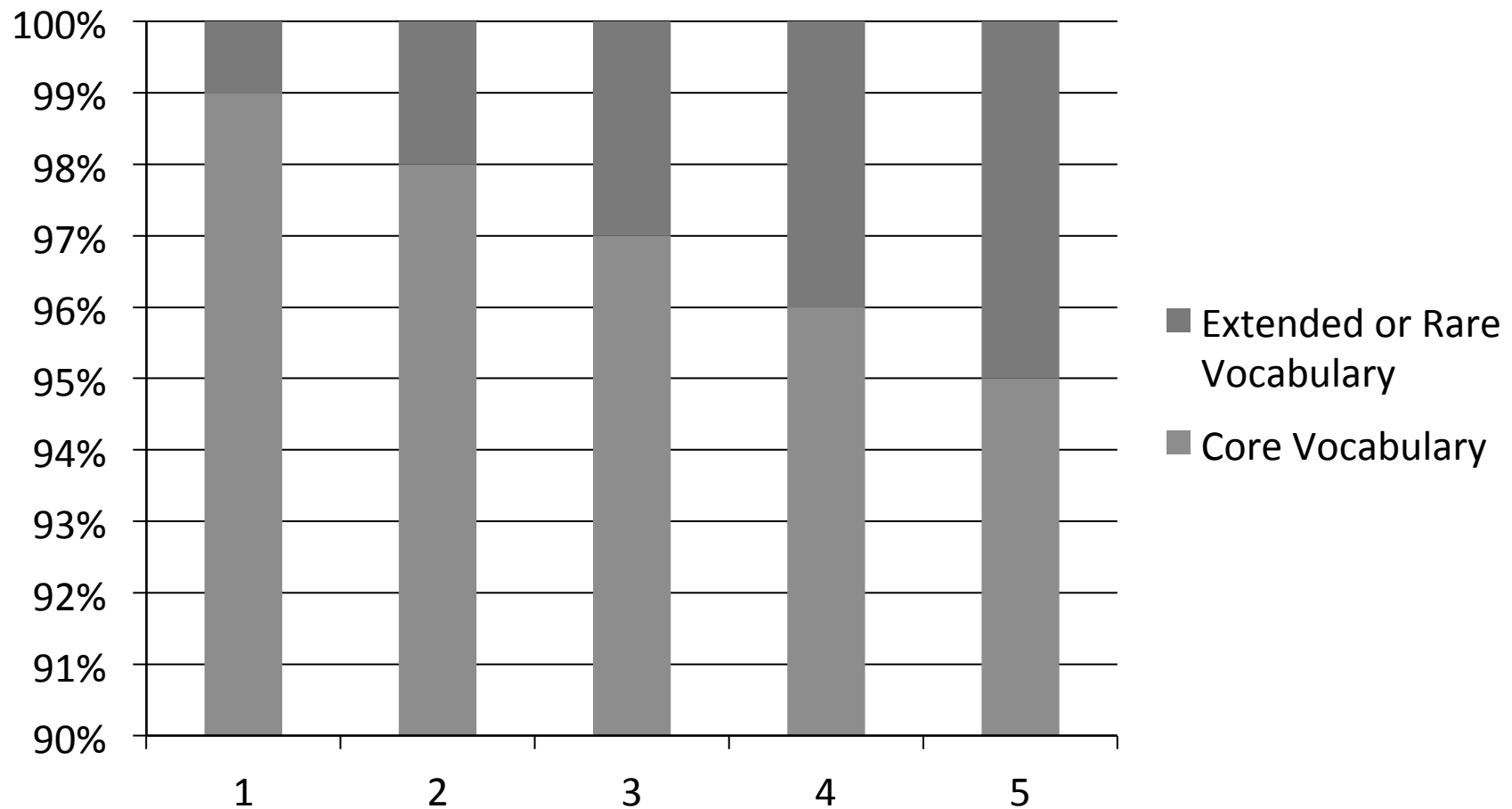


Example 1: Magazine Articles



Content Domain	Themes	Examples of a Magazine Article in FYI for Kids
Art and Music	Art; Music	Nesting Dolls
Human Interest	Fashion & Crafts; Young Heroes; Sports & Games; Young Inventors	A Birthday Wish: Rachel Beckwith
Language Studies	Text Study; Word Study	Putting Two Words Together
Science	Earth Science; Life Science; Physical Science	Counting Animals
Social Studies	Civics; Culture; History; Geography & Economics	Totem Poles

FYI for Kids: Five Complexity Levels



Bird Nests

volume 1
issue 1



Most birds build nests, but all nests are not alike. The most common bird nest is the kind made by robins. Robins build nests that look like cups. They make a frame of twigs and sticks and cover it with mud. When this is done, robins line their nest with fine moss, feathers, and hair they find on the ground.

Barn swallows build nests of mud.

They make them in barns, close to the roof where it is safe. Sometimes several swallows build nests near one another.

Some birds build their nests in unusual ways. All birds use their beaks to help make their nests, but Tailorbirds use their beak as a needle to sew leaves together. Tailorbirds use threads they gather from the cotton in cotton plants.

Some birds don't build nests at all. Some lay their eggs right on the ground or on a rocky cliff. Auks are birds that lay their eggs on rocky cliffs near the sea.

Auks' eggs are pointed at one end. This shape lets the eggs roll in a circle if another animal tries to move them or if the wind blows hard. Because the eggs can roll in a circle, they do not roll off the cliff.

King penguins also do not build nests. Instead, they tuck their eggs into the folds of skin on their lower belly. The eggs rest on their feet and stay warm in the cold arctic winds.

Some bird species also lay their eggs in the nests of other birds. Cuckoos get other birds to keep their eggs safe and to feed their babies.

Most birds build a new nest each year. Some use the same nest for several years but clean the nest a little each year. Eagles build huge platform nests that they use for several years. However different they are, though, birds build nests that are just right for their families.



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Totem Poles



All over the world, people carve materials into different shapes. They use stone, wood, ice, soap, bone, and other materials. These carved items are sometimes meant to honor people or events. Sometimes they are meant to be works of art. In the northwestern parts of North America, native people use wood to carve totem poles.

A totem pole is more than a work of art, though. It might honor a person or family. It might also tell a story. Many totem poles feature figures that represent a clan, such as animals, birds, and heroes. These figures are placed on top of each other. Sometimes the most important figure is at the bottom of the totem pole. Sometimes it is at the top.

Most totem poles are made from cedar or spruce wood. These woods are used because cedar and spruce trees grow tall and straight. Also, their wood is soft and easy to carve.

Cedar and spruce may be soft compared to other

woods, but carvers still need to be very skilled. Totem poles are usually 40 to 50 feet tall, and they weigh thousands of pounds. Totem poles are also eight to nine times taller than most people.

In the past, totem poles were placed in front of people's homes. The homes were near water, so people would see a family's totem pole when they arrived by canoe. Native Americans erected their totem poles by pulling them upright with ropes.

Today, totem poles on reservations are placed near the road because most people arrive by car. In addition, totem poles are sometimes erected by trucks and other machines. Just as in earlier times, though, people sing and dance to celebrate raising new totem poles.

Native people today continue to carve totem poles. These modern totem poles help others appreciate and honor the people and cultures of Native Americans.



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Putting Two Words Together

volume 3
issue 2



A lot of sports that people play use balls. In basketball, players try to get a ball through a hoop. In baseball, players use a bat to hit a ball. In football, players throw a ball to get it close to the goal.

There are other words with “ball” that describe things that are round. But they are not balls with which you play a game. Meatballs are not used in any sport. But

they are great with spaghetti.

Eyeballs help in playing sports. But there isn’t a sport called eyeball where teams throw and catch eyeballs. You wouldn’t want to be in a game that uses fireballs. If you would ever see a fireball, you should get as far away as fast as you can. Then call 911 right away. You should also watch out if a cannonball is going to be fired. It is round but you don’t want to play with a cannonball. You especially do not want to catch a cannonball!

There are some words, though, that have ball in them but it has nothing to do with round. Ballpoint pens make

writing a lot easier. It’s easy to see how the “point” got into ballpoint pen. But why the ball? That part is in the name because of the tip of a pen is round. There are also rooms that are called ballrooms. People hold balls in ballrooms but they aren’t the round kind.

Other words with ball have nothing to do with round. In these words, the “ball” part of the word is not even said the same as ball in baseball or meatball. Ballerina is not ball with “erina.” Ballerinas are dancers and the word has nothing to do with ball. A ballot is used by people to vote but it is not round. You don’t even say “ball” when you say the word ballot.

Whenever you see ball as part of a word, look carefully. Usually, the word has something to do with games and sports. But remember eyeballs, fireballs, and cannonballs. These balls may be round but they aren’t used in sports! Ballerina and ballot show that some words with “ball” have nothing to do with being round.



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Standing on Your Own

volume 4
issue 3



When you were born, you could not walk. At first, your parents carried you in their arms. They may have carried you in a backpack. They may have put you in a stroller.

Many baby animals need help moving around, too. But animal parents help their babies in different ways. Some animal babies can stand on their own soon after they are born. Cow and

goat babies struggle to stand up, but then they walk by themselves.

Kangaroo babies move from place to place in their mothers' pouch. A kangaroo's pouch is like a bag, but it is part of the mother's body. The baby kangaroo sleeps and eats in its mother's pouch. When the baby kangaroo is big enough, it climbs out of its mother's pouch and hops on its own.

Anteaters have one baby at a time. After they are born, anteater babies climb onto their mother's back. That's because their mother's claws are so sharp, she can't

pick them up. A baby anteater stays on its mother's back for six to nine months.

Unlike most spiders, wolf spiders don't leave their eggs to hatch on their own. Instead, wolf spiders carry their egg sac until their babies hatch. Then the baby spiders crawl onto their mother's back, where they hold on until they are ready to travel on their own.

Like most spiders, most fish leave their eggs to hatch on their own. Cichlids are different. Mother cichlids watch over their eggs. Sometimes, they hold their eggs in their mouth. When the eggs hatch, the baby cichlids stay inside their mother's mouth until they're ready to swim on their own.

Your parents probably helped you move around in many of the ways these animals' parents did. The only way your parents did not carry you around was like the baby cichlid's mother. They didn't carry you inside their mouth!



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A Birthday Wish: Rachel Beckwith

volume 5
issue 1



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In the summer of 2011, Rachel Beckwith had just finished third grade. She was looking forward to riding her bike and playing games like jump rope with her friends. Rachel also liked dancing.

Then she heard someone say that there were children in Africa who did not have clean water to drink. The person was from an organization called

charitywater.org, a charity that builds wells for towns in Africa. The wells provide people with clean water. Without wells, people often have to walk many miles to find water, then carry it home in buckets. Often, the water is not clean.

Instead of presents for her ninth birthday, Rachel asked her family and friends to donate \$9 for clean water in Africa to charitywater.org. If she could raise \$300, 15 people could get clean drinking water.

By the time her birthday came, Rachel had raised \$220. That meant that 11 people could get clean water.

She told her mom that she would try harder the next year to raise more money for the charity.

A month later, Rachel was critically injured in a car accident. On July 23, 2011, she was taken off life support. She died soon after.

When the news about Rachel's story and her birthday wish spread, people all around the world began to donate money in her name. Some gave \$9, some \$19, some more. A month later, 30,000 people had given more than \$1.2 million. Because of Rachel Beckwith, 60,000 people in more than 100 villages now have clean water to drink.

In her honor, one village put up a sign that reads, "Rachel's great dream, kindness, and vision of a better world will live with and among us forever." Clearly, one person, even a child, can make a difference.



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Physical Exercise



Written by **Elfrieda H. Hiebert**

What Some People Say About: **Physical Education**

Pacifica Examiner: Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I am in the 4th grade at North Shore Elementary. Every week on Friday we have a PE class. I used to hate PE classes. We used to just play games like football and basketball. I am not very good at them. Now we do exercises and play other sports. We run relays and play tennis. Our PE teacher, Mr. Kroger, says these skills will last us a lifetime.

Now our principal, Ms. Blair, says that our school is going to get rid of PE class because our test scores are so low. She also said that we are getting enough exercise after school and at recess, and that we don't need PE class. I am not very good at soccer and basketball, and so I am not signed up for after-school sports. PE class is one of the only times that I



get to run around and have fun. I think it is important to have a time during school where we learn about exercise, just like we learn about math and science. Please don't get rid of our PE class!

Sincerely,
Gregory Diller





Written by
Alice Lee Folkins &
Andrew Funk

The Story of Knut

In 2006, twin polar cubs were born at a zoo in Germany. For unknown reasons, the cubs' mother couldn't take care of them. The zookeepers stepped in and took care of the cubs. But one cub died. The other cub they named him Knut. Zookeepers fed, bathed, played, and even slept next to him.

Visitors to the zoo fell in love with Knut. Because of Knut, people became interested in polar bears. They learned that ice and snow are slowly melting in the northern homes of the polar bears. This change makes it difficult for polar bears to survive. The interest in Knut led people to ask for laws to save wild polar bears.

When he was only four years old, Knut suddenly died. His unexpected death stunned people around the world. Doctors found that Knut had been sick for weeks. Many questions were asked about whether Knut would have lived longer in the wild, even if his mother had not cared for him. These are hard questions without easy answers. But many believe that Knut's story has helped many people care about wild polar bears and the places they live.

Photo: Polar Bear Knut at age 2. Zoo of Berlin, Germany. December, 2008. ©2008 by Aconcagua. Some rights reserved: GNU Free Documentation License and Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported



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reading  plus[®]
EXAMPLE 2: READING PLUS



Welcome to SeeReader.

Let's start by reading a story



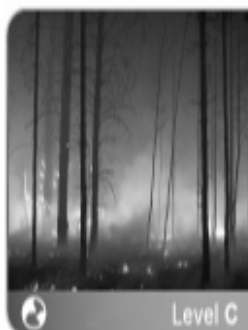
Our Earth Animals, nature, environment, conservation



Rice to Riches?



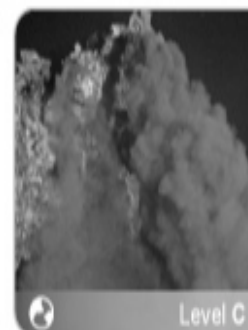
Level C 1141 Words



Wildfire!



Level C 1266 Words



What Lies Beneath



Level C 1130 Words



Good Zoo, Bad Zoo



Level C 1260 Words



A Home Up High



Level C 1353 Words



It's a Green, Green World



Level C 1131 Words

More

More

LEVEL PROGRESS

This Weeks Assignment



Level

C



80%+



80%+

80%+



80%+



Streak

4

Best Streak

11

Powers

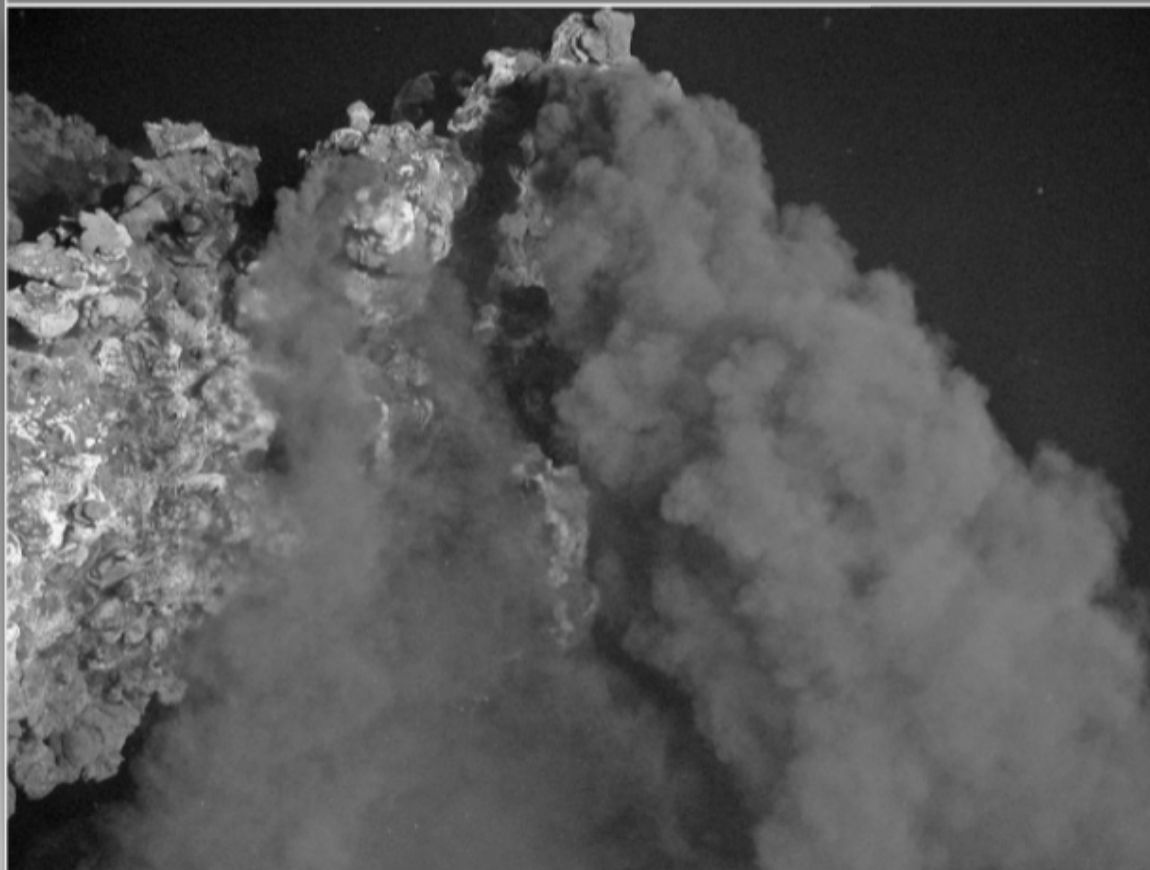


x 1



How does this look?

Press Go On to continue



What Lies Beneath

by Kate Carter



OUR EARTH

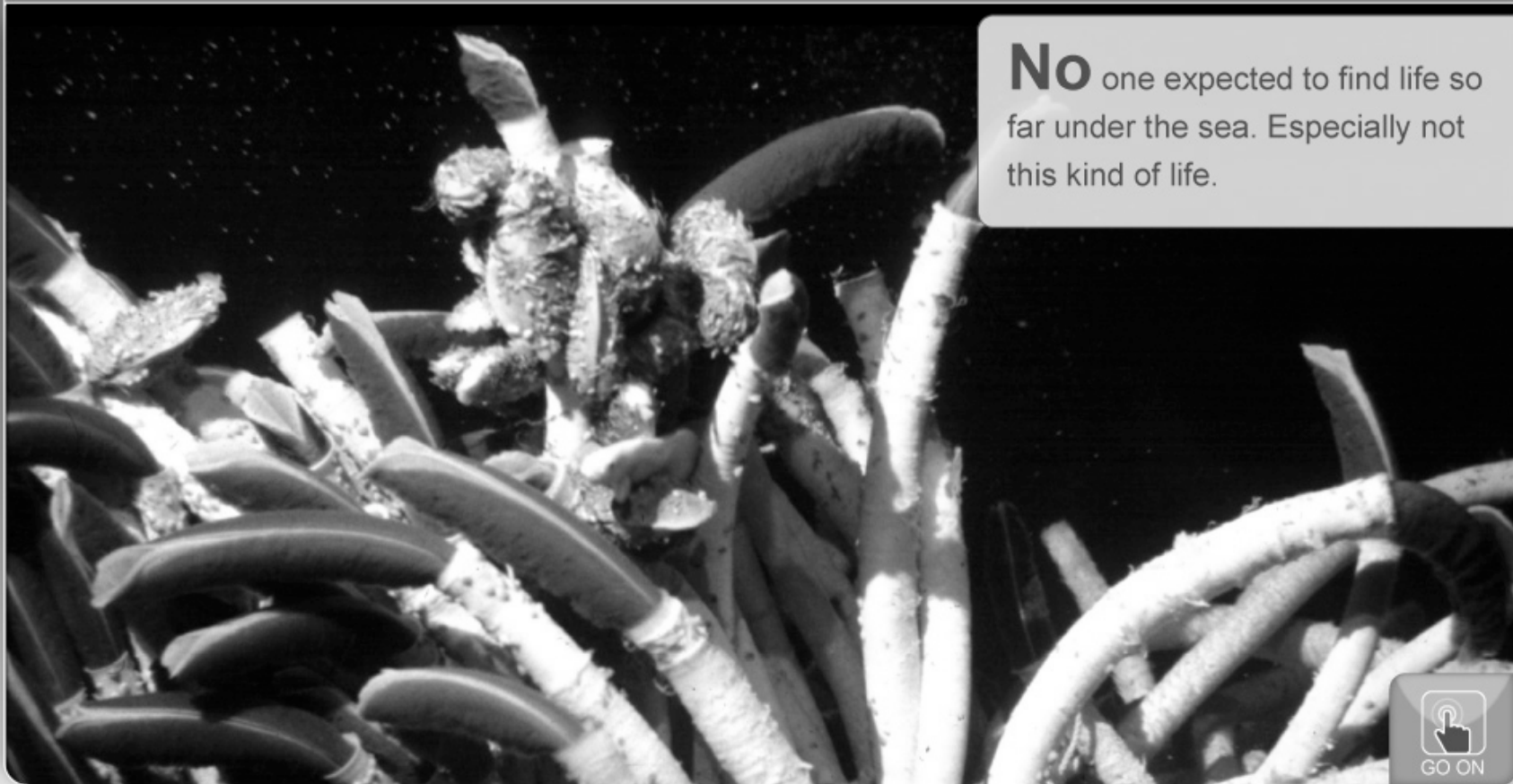
C

When scientists explore the deep sea by submarine, they bump into some creepy characters.





Before you read, take a look at this.
Press Go On to continue



No one expected to find life so far under the sea. Especially not this kind of life.





The ocean is the world's last wilderness. It is so vast, and so deep, that scientists still don't know about everything that lives there. But they're starting to learn. And what they're finding is pretty spectacular.

Scientists use submarines to help them explore the bottom of the ocean. Alvin is one of these submarines, and maybe the most famous one. Alvin is small, so it can move around under water easily. It can fit into places where big submarines can't go. Alvin is just the right size for three scientists to do their work. Alvin has windows so the scientists can see out, and bright lights to help them find their way through the darkest parts of the ocean. The scientists can stay inside Alvin for up to ten hours at a time, as they study the plants and animals that live on the ocean floor.

There is no other submarine like Alvin. It has robot arms that can pick





How does this look?
Press Go On to continue



Good Zoo, Bad Zoo

by Kate Carter

 OUR EARTH

C

Zoos have been around for thousands of years. Is that a good thing or a bad thing?



GO ON



Almost every large city has at least one zoo. Millions of people visit zoos around the world. And that number of people increases each year. Why are zoos so popular? It seems that people have always wanted to see wild animals. And not just the rabbits or squirrels they can find in their own backyards.

The earliest zoos started thousands of years ago. They were small groups of wild animals, such as lions or camels. They were usually kept by a rich person or family. A wealthy family with a lot of land might have such a group of animals right on its own property.

Kings and queens were known to keep zoos of their own as well. It was not unusual for a leader from another country to visit and bring a wild animal as a gift. In the 1400s, the British King Henry III had a personal zoo. He





This should help you learn this word.
Press Go On to continue.

weather

En Español
clima



The word weather tells about conditions. outdoors in one part of the country. Weather refers to how hot or cold it is. Snow, wind, sun, and rain are some weather conditions.

Word Family

weathered

Word In Use

The weather in the desert is mostly hot and dry.

Rain and snow weathered the rocks on the hillside.



GO ON





This should help you learn this word.
Press Go On to continue.

causeEn Español
causa 

A cause is the reason something happens. A cause brings about an effect or result. The cause of the fire was a candle that tipped over. There are many causes of pollution.

Word Family

causes

caused

causing

Word In Use

Getting up late was the cause for my missing the bus.

The snowstorm caused the road to be closed for three days.



GO ON



Level C: *cause*

One of the first people to have the idea that ice may have **caused** this was a man named Bernard Kuhn.

The amounts of gases in our air can also make the earth colder. Some scientists believe that the tall mountains helped **cause** the ice ages. When rain falls, it washes away the dirt on big mountains. The gases that were trapped under the dirt go into the air. The gases can block the light and heat from the sun. And that could make it colder.

Oddly enough, even a blast of heat can **cause** the earth to get cold. When a volcano explodes, it blows ash and smoke into the sky. The ash and smoke block the sunlight. The earth gets darker. It also gets colder. Smoke that lasts for months could spread a long way. This can **cause** an ice age to begin.



This should help you learn this word.
Press Go On to continue.

estimate En Español
estimar 

To estimate is to guess carefully or calculate. We estimate when we have some information but not definite facts. We are estimating a person's age or height by just looking at them. A flight's estimated arrival time is when it is expected to land if there are no delays.

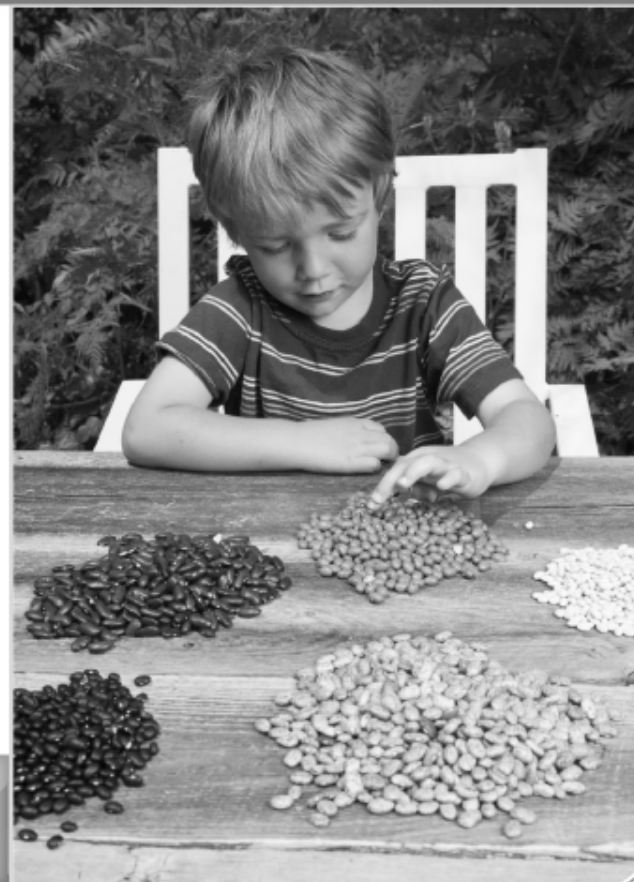
Word Family

estimates estimating estimated

Word In Use

The coach estimates the team will need three buses to travel to the game.

We are estimating we will arrive about 20 minutes late because of the traffic.



Level G: *estimate*

What are the advantages of purchasing a hybrid car? For one thing a hybrid is economical. The hybrid's smaller and lighter engine and its electric power supply make for a much better use of fuel. It is **estimated** that a hybrid can get up to 55-60 miles per gallon in city driving. It is also **estimated** that it provides a whopping 20-30 more miles per gallon than a standard car! In fact, one hybrid on the road today can go about 700 miles on a single tank of gasoline and, given the upward direction of gasoline prices, a hybrid car could take a big bite out of a driver's gasoline bills.

Conclusion: To Ensure that Students Can Read Complex Text:

1. Expand students' vocabulary through networks
2. Give students an abundance of opportunities to read--with students, not teachers, taking the responsibility for reading
3. Develop students' world knowledge at the same time as they develop word knowledge



TextProject

TextProject aims to bring beginning and struggling readers to high levels of literacy through a variety of strategies and tools, particularly the texts used for reading instruction.

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Common Core State Standards



Core Vocabulary

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GUIDE
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New Webinar Guide Series!

TextProject has launched a new series called Webinar Guide Series to accompany the CCSS Webinar Series! The goal of the Webinar Guide Series is to highlight content and activities that teacher educators and professional development leaders can use in courses and workshops.

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"Read to learn" while learning to read



Increase meaningful, text-based discussions



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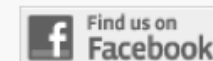
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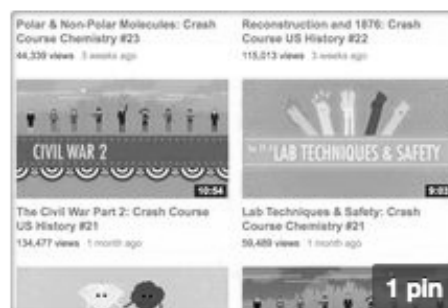
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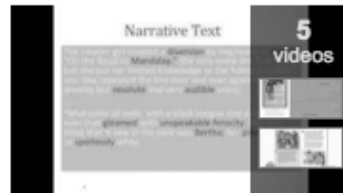
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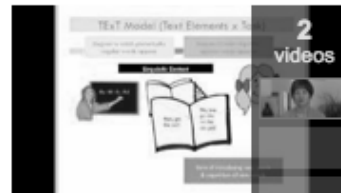
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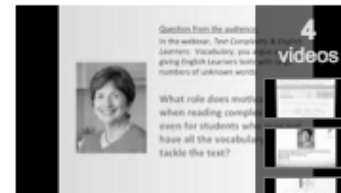
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