

Creating Literacy Across Content Areas

A row of ten books with decorative spines in various colors: cream, yellow, orange, red, and blue. The spines feature intricate gold-leaf patterns, including geometric designs and stylized floral motifs. The books are standing upright on a surface, and the background is a soft-focus bokeh of warm, circular light spots in shades of orange, red, and purple.

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

Knowledge in the Digital Age

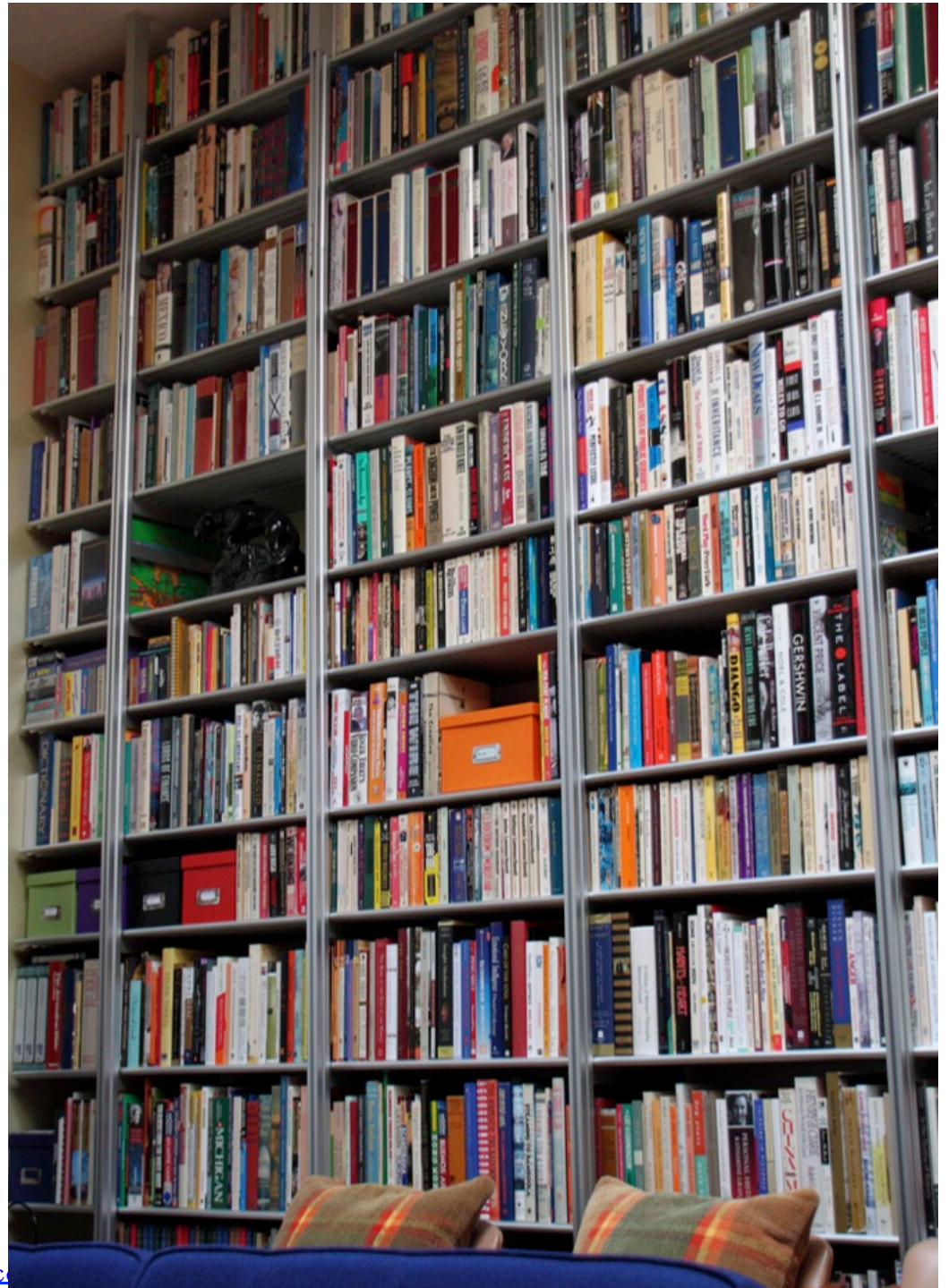
1986



2007

2018

Knowledge is
“stored” in
texts and...



**texts typically
have more rare
words than
conversations/
oral language.**



Discussion #1:

1. How many words do you estimate you teach in English/Language Arts instruction in a year?
2. What percent of the English vocabulary is this?



Idea 1: You can't teach all English words but you can teach students about the underlying systems.

ENGLISH HAS THREE DISTINCT MORPHOLOGICAL SYSTEMS.





SMALL CHANGE 1: Have explicit conversations about rare vocabulary in ALL texts

**Talking
Points**

**For
Teachers**

Conversations about New Words in New Texts

Why?

- Develop the understanding that every complex text has new, challenging vocabulary. Vocabulary instruction gives students the means for figuring out new words in text, not instruction in every single word that might appear in new texts.

When?

- Talks about the vocabulary of new texts need to occur across a school year (with extra doses prior to assessment periods).

How?

- Demonstrate the nature of vocabulary with 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.

Idea	Action	Open-Access Resource
1. English has more words than can be taught.	1. Teach students to expect new words in texts.	1. Talking Points for Teachers: New Words in New Texts
2. A small group of words does the heavy lifting in English.	2. Increase volume of reading	2. •FYI for Kids •ReadWorks.org
3. Rare words in narrative texts belong to synonym networks; those in informational texts in topic networks.	3. Teach students prolific synonym networks & organize topics into networks.	3. •Super Synonym Sets for Stories (S4) •Exceptional Expressions in Everyday Events (E4)

DISCUSSION 2

1. What percentage of the vocabulary is the same across GMAS texts for Grades 3, 5, & 7?

GMAS—Grade 3

Max took out his map and showed it to the Smiths. First, he would walk to the park, then around the soccer field, and finally come back home. The Smiths thought this was a great idea.

Mr. Smith put Roxy on a leash for Max. Then Max was on his own, walking the big, excited puppy.

"Bye, Mr. and Mrs. Smith. We will be back soon. Don't worry about us. We will have a great time!" said Max.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith smiled and waved as Max and Roxy walked down the block. Wow, thought Max. This is more fun than I imagined.

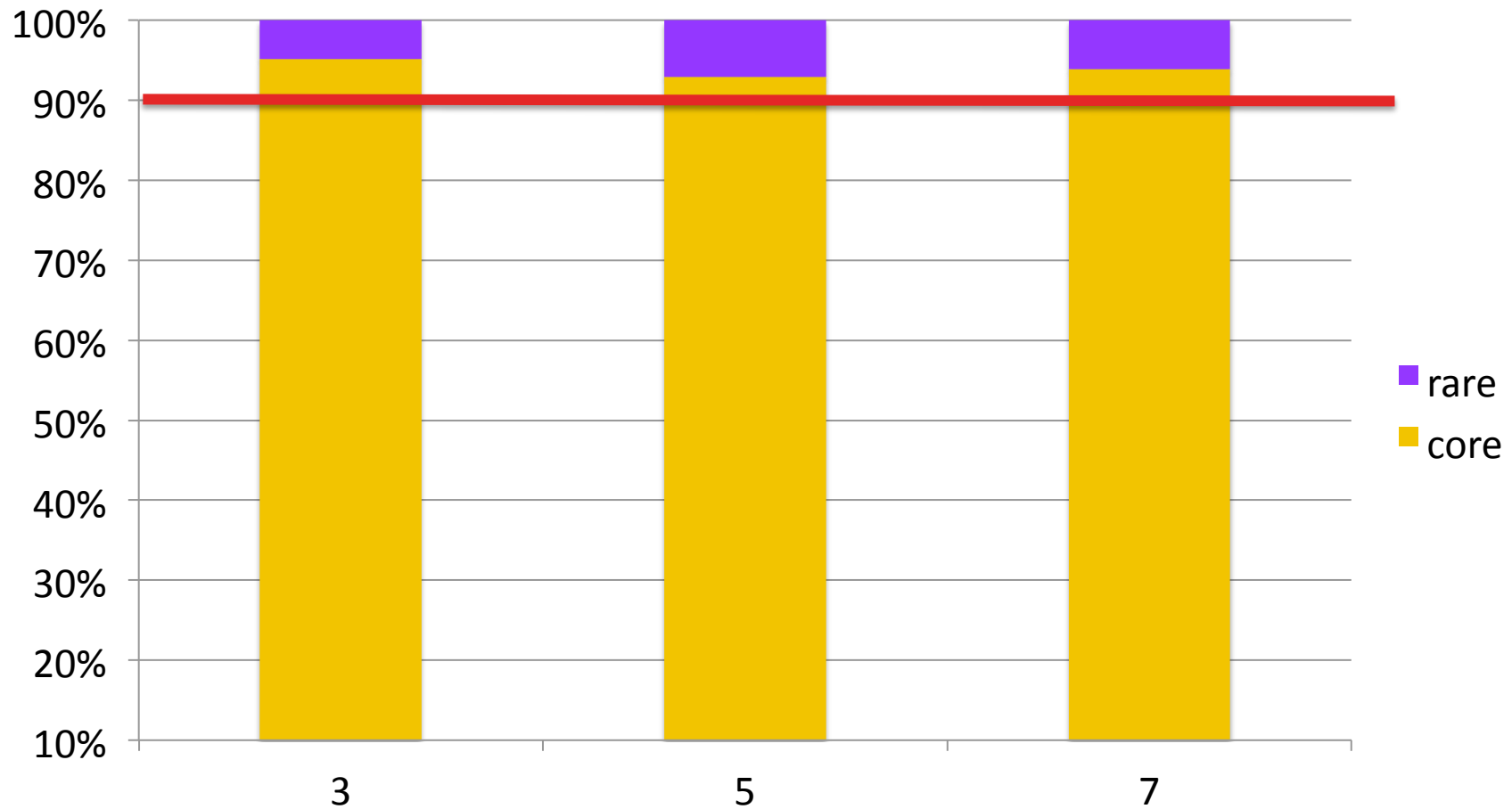
GMAS—Grade 5

Seed pots are used to hold seeds that will be planted the following year. Ella and I help roll out coils of clay. They look like long snakes when we finish, and I make a small coil pot of my own. Ella shows me a pot she painted with a yucca brush. A yucca brush is a leaf from a yucca plant that grows like a tall bush. Grandmother Loreen chews on the end of the leaf to make it into a brush and then uses it to draw elaborate designs on pots. Ella and I try it too.

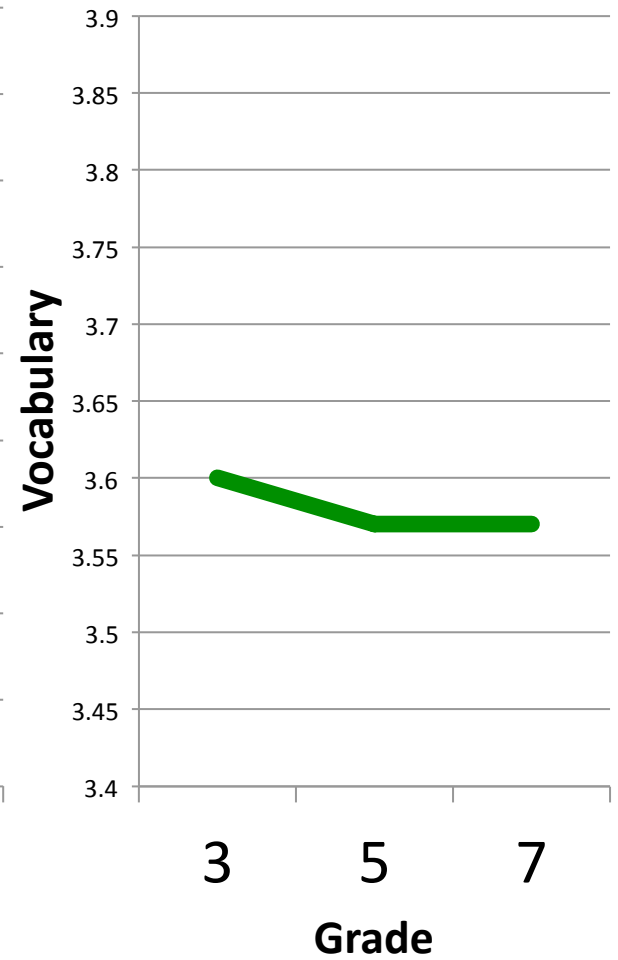
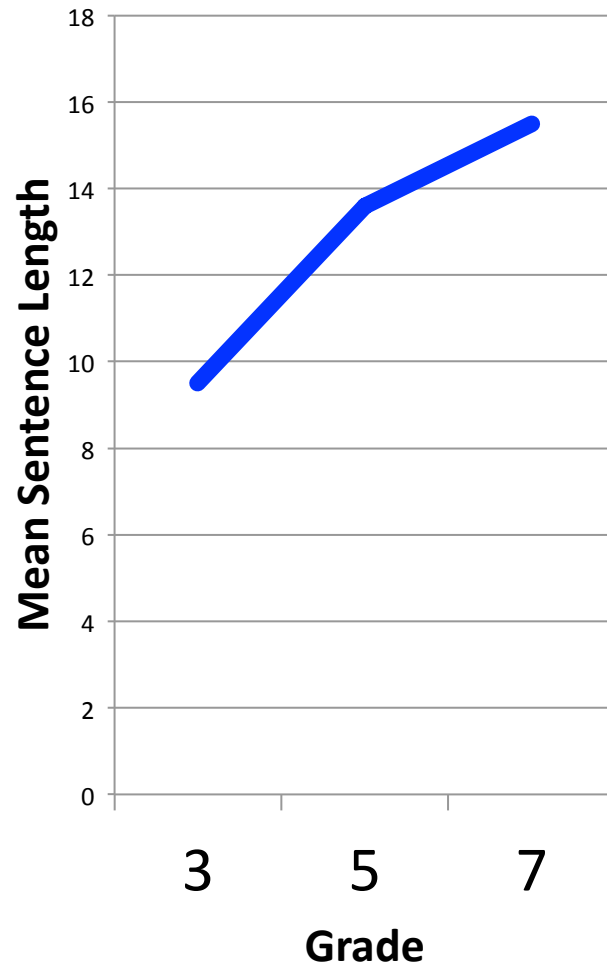
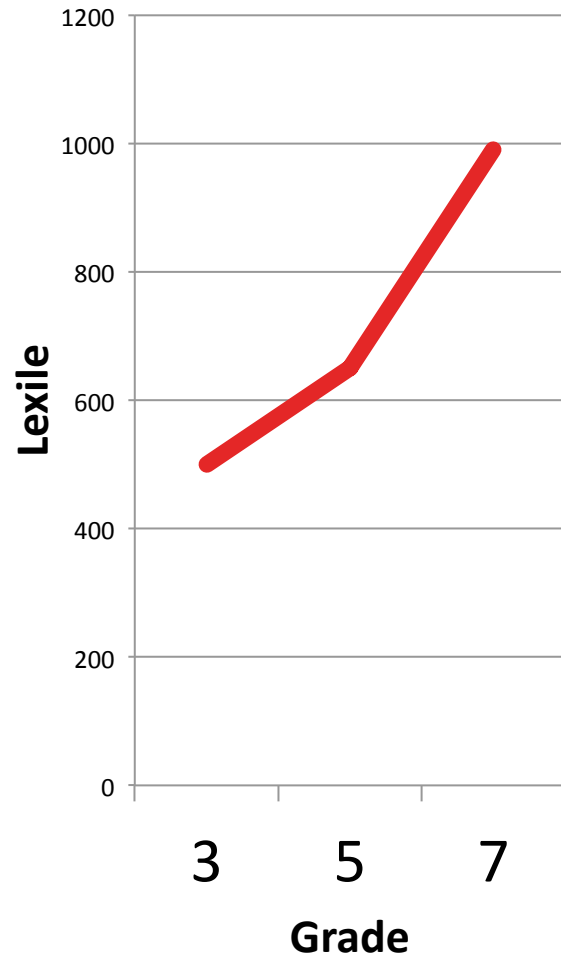
GMAS—Grade 7

Another incredibly strange invention was called the snowstorm mask. While little is known about its original inventor, there are photographs of it. In Montreal, Canada, a clothing store was selling large plastic cones. People attached the large cones to their heads, allowing the long plastic mask to cover their entire faces. Essentially, people looked as though they were wearing giant, clear bird beaks on their faces! The idea of protecting one's face from the cold and wet snow sounds like a reasonable idea. However, the creator of the snowstorm mask took the concept in an odd direction.

Word Patterns in GMAS Texts



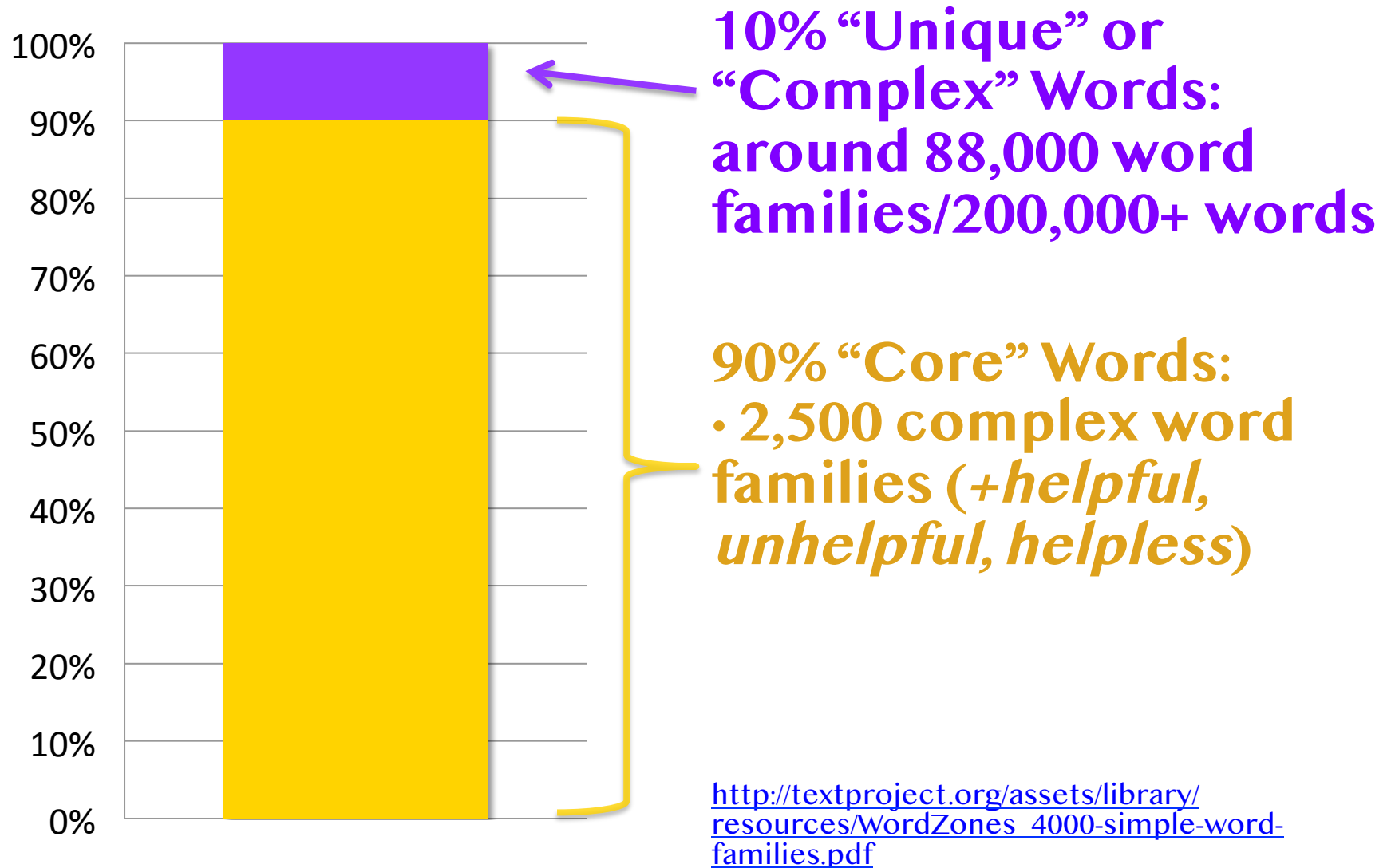
Lexiles of GMAS Texts





Idea 2: A small group of words does the heavy lifting in English.

The distribution of words in written English



Examples of the Words in the Core Vocabulary

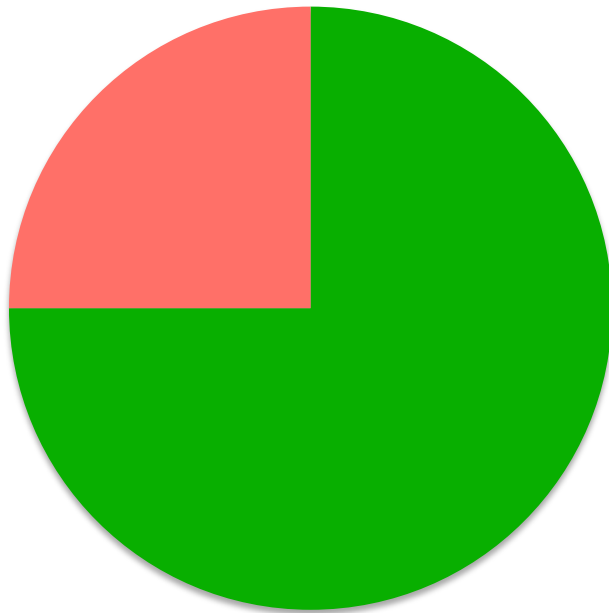
	words
1st 100	the, by, no, through, must
101-300	long, great, put, last, family
301-1,000	power, north, story, strong, answer
1,001-1,500	valley, imagine, motion, nearby, importance
1,501-2,000	character, responsible, design, presence, trail
2001-2,500	mixture, discovery, civilization, attitude, assume



Small Change 2: Support students' core vocabulary by increasing volume of reading

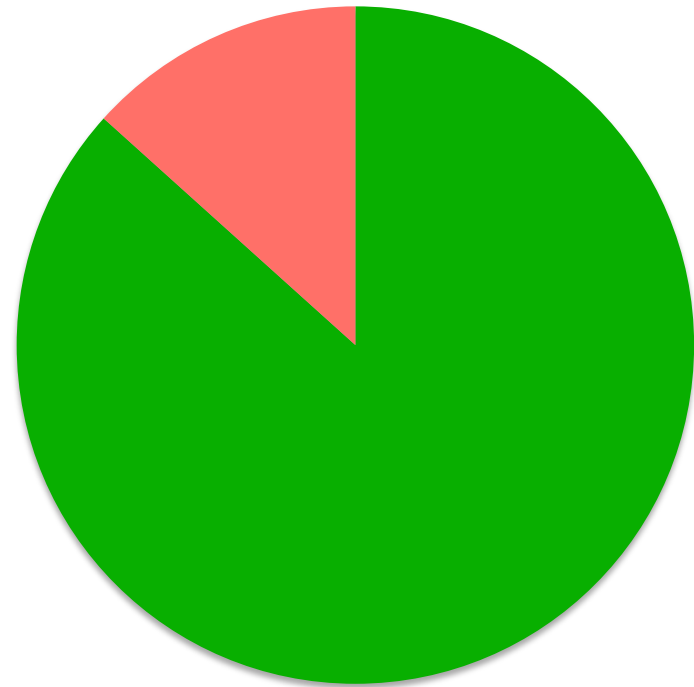
Time Spent in Reading Instruction & “Eyes on Text”

**Reading Instruction (1970s
to late 1980s)**

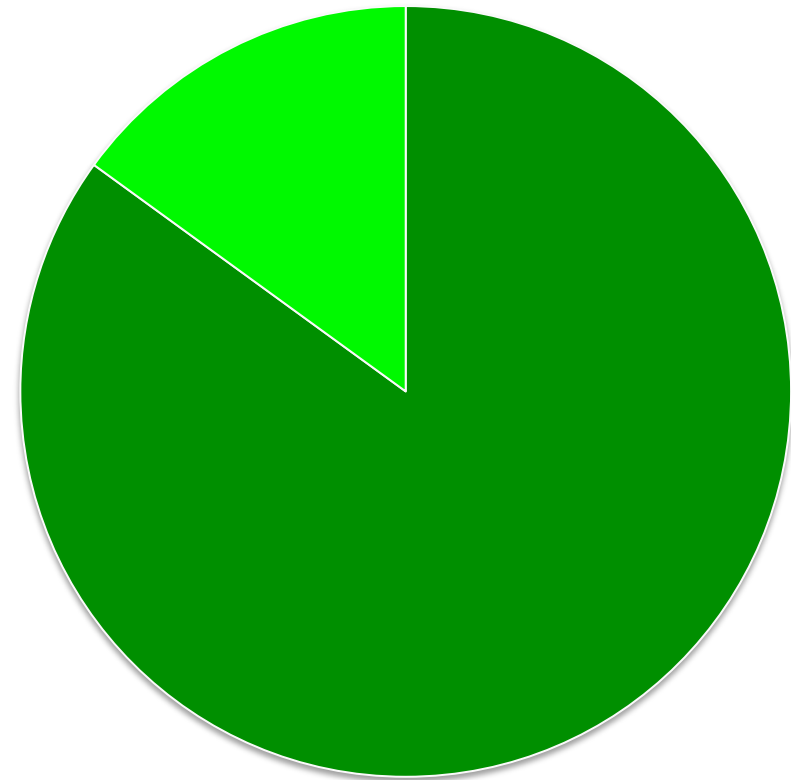


■ Instruction ■ Time Spent reading

Reading Instruction (late 1990s -)

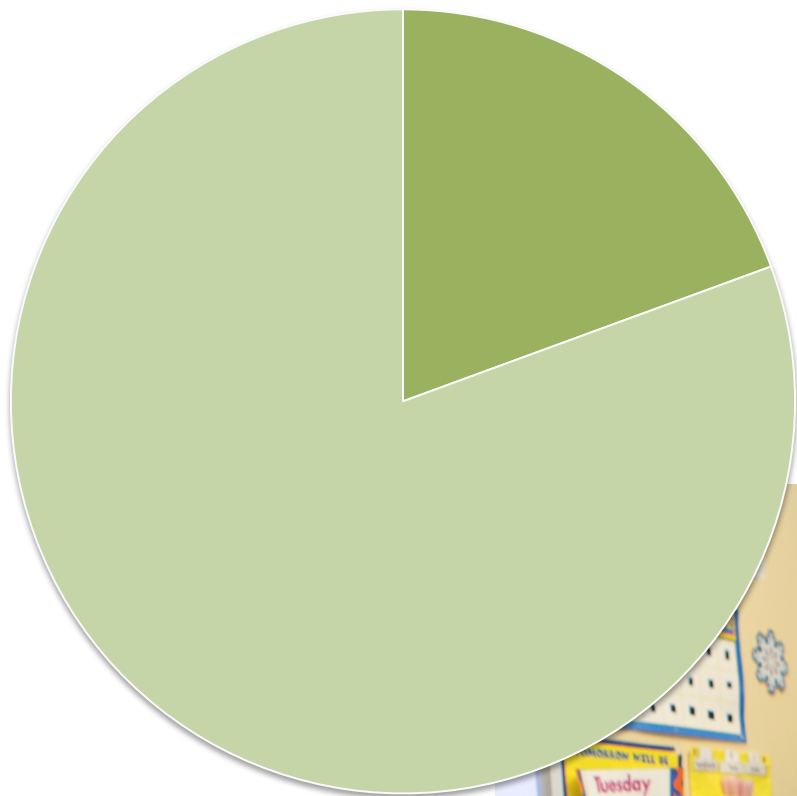


■ Instruction ■ Time Spent reading



■ Other activities ■ Reading

Swanson, Wanzek, McCulley, Stillman-Spisask,
Vaughn, Simmons, Fogarty, & Hairrell, 2015.



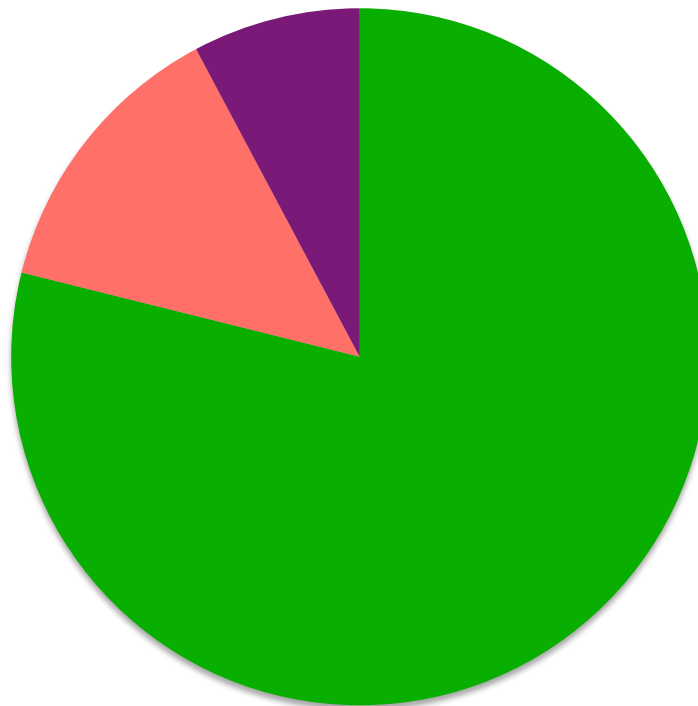
■ Silent Reading

■ Listening, Following Along to Oral Reading



7 Minutes of Additional Reading

**Reading Instruction
(w/ 7 additional minutes)**



■ Instruction ■ Time Spent reading ■ Additional 7 minutes



Way to increase reading?
Engage students in articles



Putting Two Words Together

volume 3
issue 2



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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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Putting Two Words Together

volume 3
issue 2



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Kites: Dancers in the Wind

volume 3
issue 15



You're on a beach, and the wind is blowing off the ocean. Your kite floats and swirls, dancing in the wind.

Kites were invented in China more than 2,000 years ago. They were first used by the Chinese military, but about 1,000 years ago, people started flying kites for fun. Since then, kites have been used for celebrations, in competitions, and

for science. In addition, kite festivals show off the many shapes and colors of kites. These festivals are held in Japan, Pakistan, and many other countries.

The first kites were made of silk. After paper was invented, around the year 100 AD, people used it to make kites. Today, most kites are made of paper or cloth, with sticks to hold them in shape and string to hold onto them. However, there are also kites for skiing or for moving a buggy on a beach.

In ancient times, kites carried lines across rivers. These lines helped build bridges. In the 1880s, kites

were first used to take photographs. In the early 1900s, the United States Weather Bureau used kites to help with weather prediction. The kites measured winds and temperatures.

The word kite is from an Old English word that means "a kind of hawk." Kites were probably given this name because of the way they look when they fly.

To fly a kite, find a large open area, such as a park or a beach. Make sure there are no trees or power lines the kite can get caught on. Then hold the kite's string up and run. The kite will lift when it catches the wind. Guide your kite by pulling the string. Make sure you look around when you're running so you don't run into anything.

As you watch the kite, notice how it moves. If the wind is just right, your kite will dance, too, swirling as the wind takes it high up into the sky.



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**Readworks.org has
approximately 3,500 free
passages for Grades 1-High
School—including 450
curated sets of articles in the
Read-an-Article-a-Day
initiative**

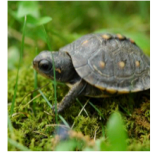


Clouds and Rain

ARTICLE-A-DAY SET

Earth & Space Science

1st Articles range from 220L to 790L **Informational**



Animals from Different Places

ARTICLE-A-DAY SET

Sports, Health & Safety, Life Science, Earth & Space Science

1st Articles range from 300L to 540L **Informational**

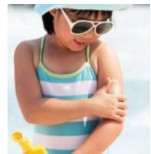


Jobs and Careers

ARTICLE-A-DAY SET

Geography & Societies, Sports, Health & Safety, School & Family Life, Arts & Culture, Technology & Engineering

2nd Articles range from 270L to 650L **Informational**



Health and Body

ARTICLE-A-DAY SET

Sports, Health & Safety, School & Family Life, Life Science

2nd Articles range from 480L to 710L **Informational**

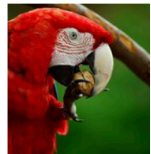


Animal Senses, Safety, and Homes

ARTICLE-A-DAY SET

Geography & Societies, Life Science

2nd Articles range from 500L to 630L **Informational**

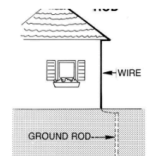


Exploring Continents

ARTICLE-A-DAY SET

World History, Geography & Societies, Life Science, Earth & Space Science

2nd Articles range from 530L to 710L **Informational**



Inventions

ARTICLE-A-DAY SET

Winter Season, Technology & Engineering

1st Articles range from 250L to 570L **Informational**



Amphibians and Reptiles

ARTICLE-A-DAY SET

U.S. History, Geography & Societies, Life Science, Earth & Space Science

2nd Articles range from 430L to 760L **Informational**

The Article-a-Day Initiative: Sets of articles for a week around a topic; articles cover a range of complexity levels

Illustration: Article-a-Day

Dances around the World

ARTICLE-A-DAY SET

[Articles](#)

Book of Knowledge

[China's Lion Dance](#)

Hawaii's Traditional Hula Dance

The Argentine Tango

India's Classical Dance: Bharatanatyam

The Traditional Irish Step Dance

Gumboot Dance from South Africa

China's Lion Dance

356 words



Lion dance performed in Singapore

If you have ever seen a celebration of the Chinese New Year, you may have seen a large, colorful creature dancing to the sounds of drums, cymbals, and gongs. Of course, this is not a real beast. It's actually skilled dancers in costume, performing a lion dance. When these dancers come together, they form the colorful dancing creature!

The lion dance is a traditional part of Chinese culture. It is often performed on the eve of the Chinese New Year (or Spring Festival). It's also performed for other special occasions, like weddings. The dance is thought to bring good luck, and prosperity, or success.

While there are many different tales of how lion dance began, one legend traces it back to a village in China hundreds of years ago. The legend says that the people of the village were attacked by a monster called a nien. A lion chased the nien away. But a year later, the nien returned, and this time the lion was unable to help. So the people of the village created a lion costume of their own. Their fake lion danced, pranced, roared, and chased the nien away. For this reason, people perform the lion dance on the night before the Chinese New Year – they chase evil away for another year.

The lion dance is performed by two dancers. One dancer performs as the lion's head and front legs, and the other performs as the body and back legs. The head of the lion costume is made out of materials like papier-mâché and bamboo. The body of the costume is a long cloth attached to the head.

There are two different styles of lion dance. In a southern lion dance, the dancers base their performance on a lion's behavior. Their lion may scratch or shake its body. The dance can even be funny.

The other style is the northern lion dance. This style is closely related to the martial art form kung fu. It can involve rolling, leaping, and jumping.

Both styles require skill and practice to perform. And both are very entertaining to watch!

Hawaii's Traditional Hula Dance

300 words



Dancers performing hula dance

The Hula is a traditional Hawaiian dance. It is known partly for its smooth and graceful movements of the arms, hands, and hips. Hula dancers often mimic movements from nature. Their movements may look like trees in the wind or waves in the water. The dancers also tell a story with their movements. Chants, or *mele*, go along with the movements to help tell the story.

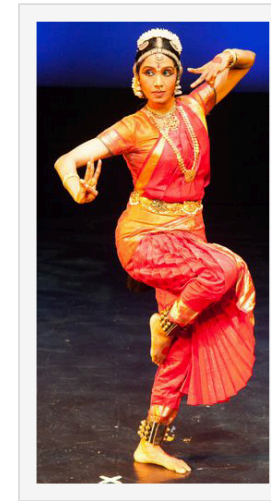
There are many myths as to how the hula dance originated. One legend says that Pele, the volcano goddess, danced the first hula dance. According to this myth, Pele was running from her sister, the goddess of the oceans. She was trying to find a place where she couldn't be touched by the ocean waves. She finally found such a place. It was a chain of craters on the island of Hawaii. There, Pele danced the first hula to show that she had beaten her sister!

Although people today dance the hula freely, the dance was actually banned during part of the 1800s. It was banned by Christian missionaries who arrived in Hawaii in 1820. Before then, the hula was used in religious ceremonies. But the missionaries did not approve of the religious ceremonies the people of Hawaii were holding, or the dancing that went with them. After it was banned, the dance continued to be taught and danced secretly. But as more Hawaiians started becoming Christians, the dance became a dying part of Hawaiian culture.

All of this changed during the reign of Hawaii's last king, David Kalakaua. He was the king from 1874 to 1891. He encouraged hula dancing to come back out into the open. As a result, the dance resurfaced, now with new movements, costumes, and song. Today, the hula tradition lives on in Hawaii.

India's Classical Dance: Bharatanatyam

287 words



Bharatanatyam dancer

India is home to many different classical dance styles. One of the oldest classical dances of India is Bharatanatyam (Ba-ra-tha-NAA-tium).

The name Bharatanatyam comes from the language Sanskrit. "Bha" is short for *bhava*, the Sanskrit word for feeling. "Ra" comes from the word *raga*, which means music or melody. "Ta" comes from *taala*, or rhythm. And finally, "natyam" is the word for dance. So the name Bharatanatyam speaks for itself! It is a dance that includes music, rhythm, and emotion.

People first began dancing Bharatanatyam in the Hindu temples of southern India many centuries ago. Only women dancers performed the dance style. The dance expressed the religious themes of Hinduism, one of India's main religions and one of the oldest religions in the world. Much later, in the 1900s, the dance style began to be performed on stages and in theaters.

Bharatanatyam dance often involves telling a religious story. The dancer uses hand movements to tell a tale. Certain hand positions and gestures have certain meanings in the dance style. But the dancer's facial expressions are important to the tale, too. Along with eye and neck movements, facial expressions can affect the meaning or mood of the story a dancer is trying to tell.

This dance style also involves complex rhythms. The dancer's feet beat out different patterns that go along with the music. Often, the dancer wears bells around his or her ankles. These bells jingle along with the beat, too.

Today, Bharatanatyam is one of the most popular Indian dance styles. It is performed all over India by both men and women. And now, this beautiful and powerful dance style is taught, learned, and performed all over the world!

Idea	Action	Open-Access Resource
1. English has more words than can be taught.	1. Teach students to expect new words in texts.	1. Talking Points for Teachers: New Words in New Texts
2. A small group of words does the heavy lifting in English.	2. Increase volume of reading	2. 7 minutes of additional reading daily, especially of magazine articles
3. Rare words in narrative texts belong to synonym networks; those in informational texts in topic networks.	3. Teach students prolific synonym networks & organize topics into networks.	3. -Super Synonym Sets for Stories (S4) -Exceptional Expressions in Everyday Events (E4)

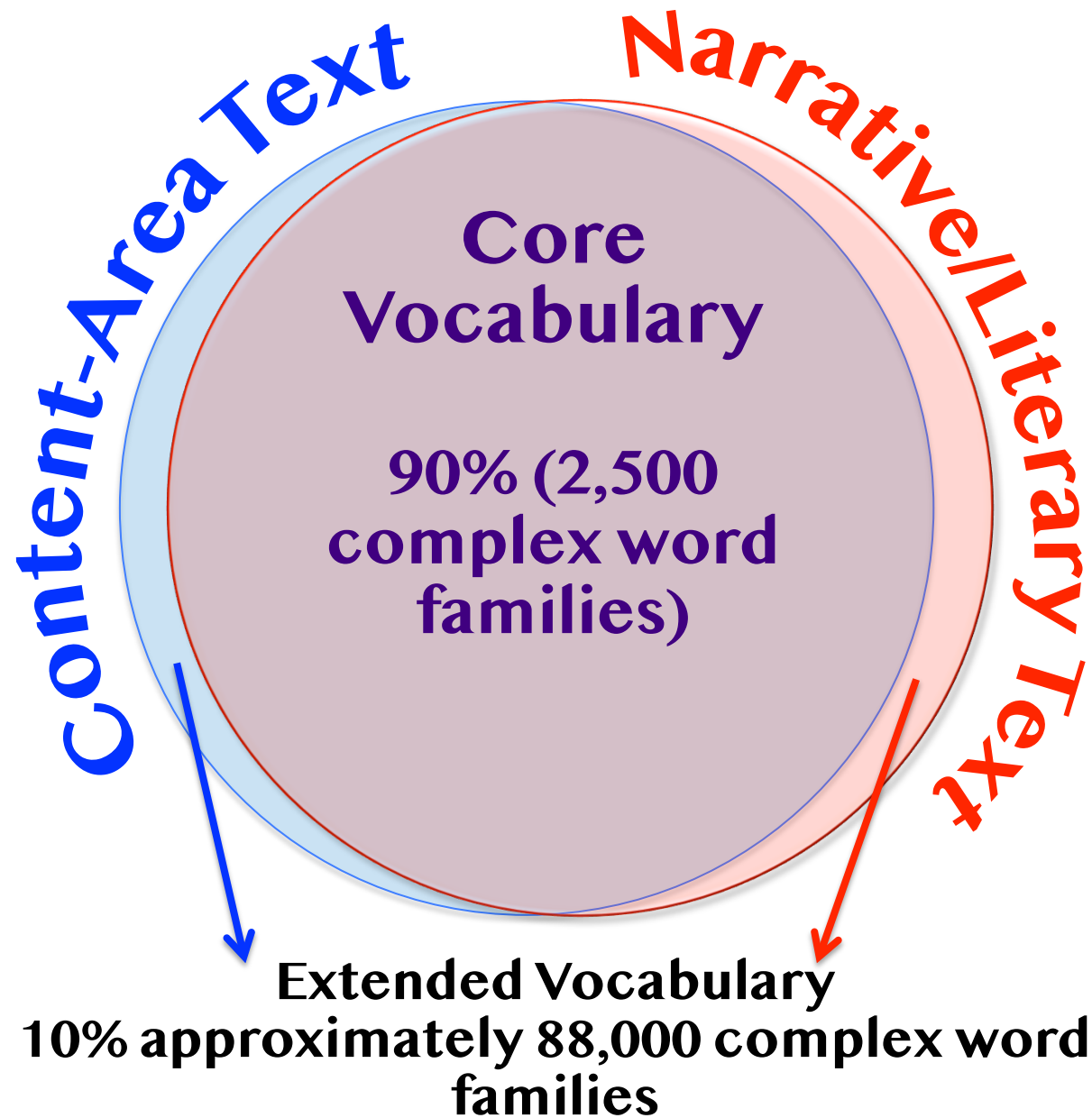
Discussion 3

- 1. How do you teach rare vocabulary in narrative texts? In expository texts?



**Idea 3: Rare words are part
of networks**

The Other 10%: Rare Words in Writing



Narrative Text

Even with eyes protected by the green spectacles, Dorothy and her friends were at first dazzled by the brilliancy of the wonderful City. The streets were lined with beautiful houses all built of green marble and studded everywhere with sparkling emeralds. They walked over a pavement of the same green marble, and where the blocks were joined together were rows of emeralds, set closely, and glittering in the brightness of the sun. The window panes were of green glass; even the sky above the City had a green tint, and the rays of the sun were green.

From *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* Frank Baum)

(a)
**Networks in
narratives
are
synonyms
related to
story
elements.**

Story Word	Other Possibilities
dazzled	hypnotized awed
brilliancy	effulgence luminosity
glittering	shimmering radiance

A close-up photograph of a young child's face, focusing on the eyes and nose. The child has light blonde hair and blue eyes. The background is blurred, showing some greenery and a blue object. A semi-transparent yellow box is overlaid on the upper part of the image, containing the text.

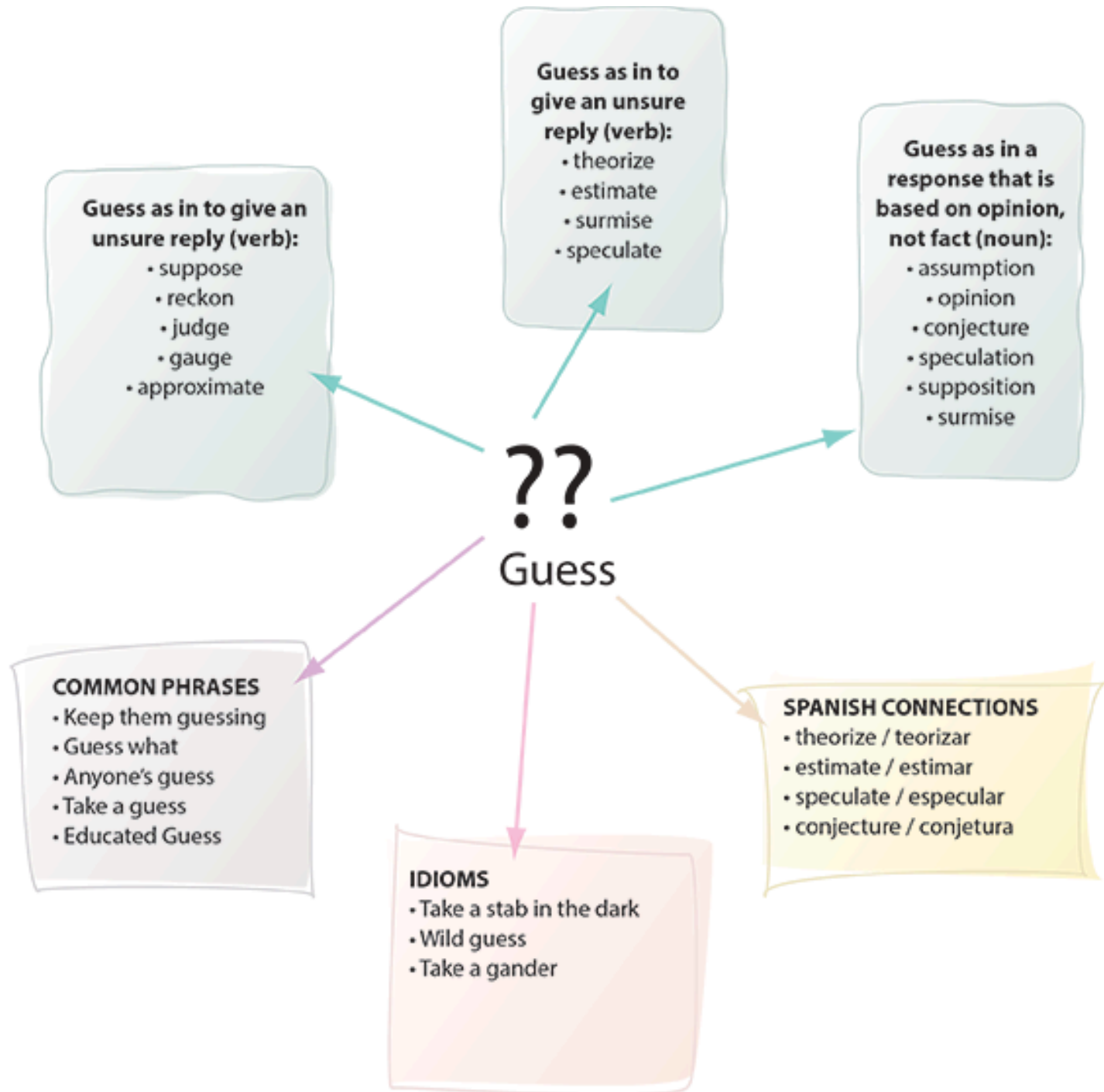
Small Change 3a: Teach Prolific Synonym Networks



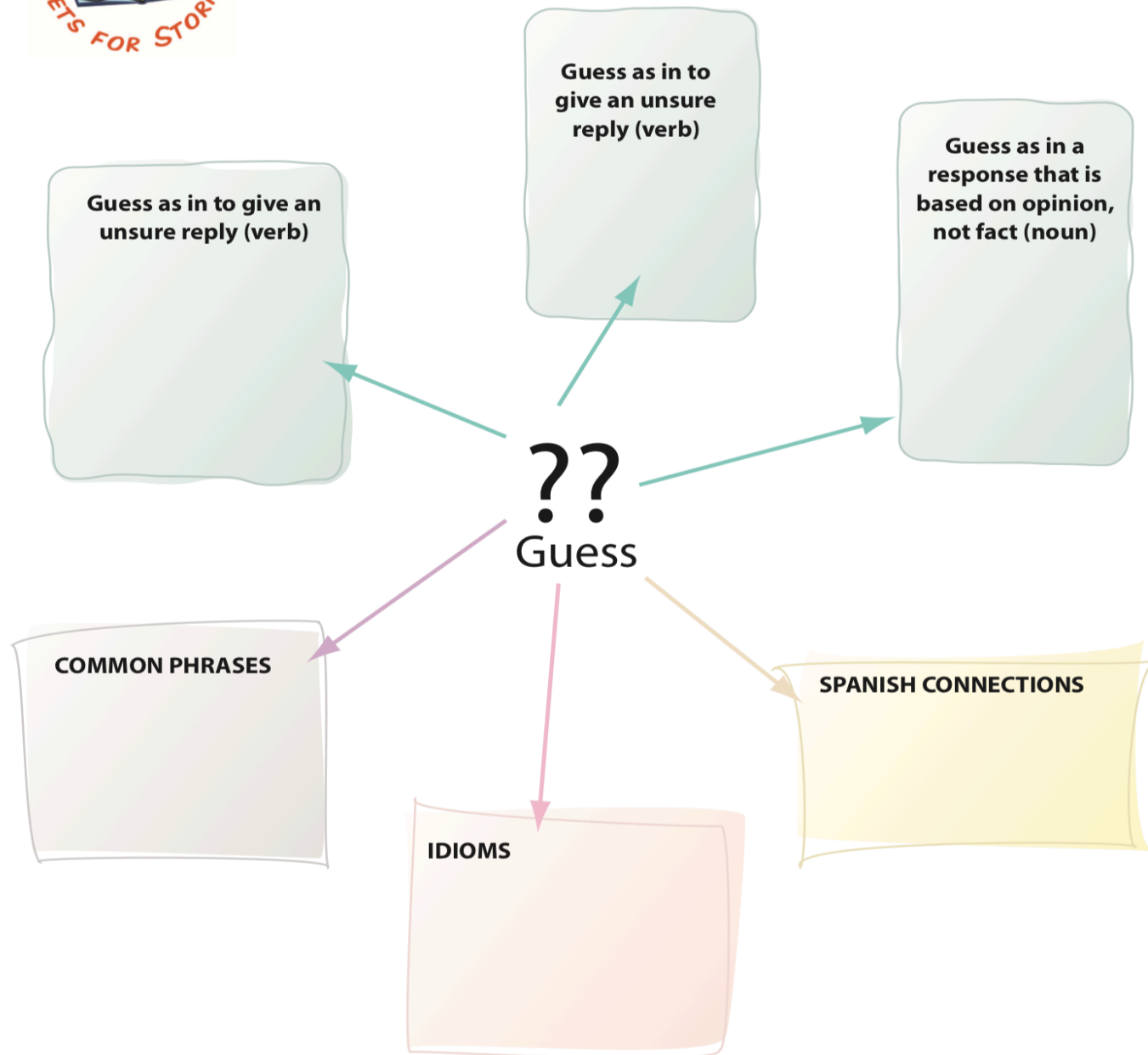
Synonym Networks in Narrative Texts

Prolific Groups of Synonyms

Communication /Internal Processes (verbs)	Emotions (adjectives)	Movement (verbs)	Traits (adjectives)
think	happy	go	funny
argue	sad	send	smart
look	mad	start	brave
guess	hope	stop	selfish
said	fear	stay	shy



Guess

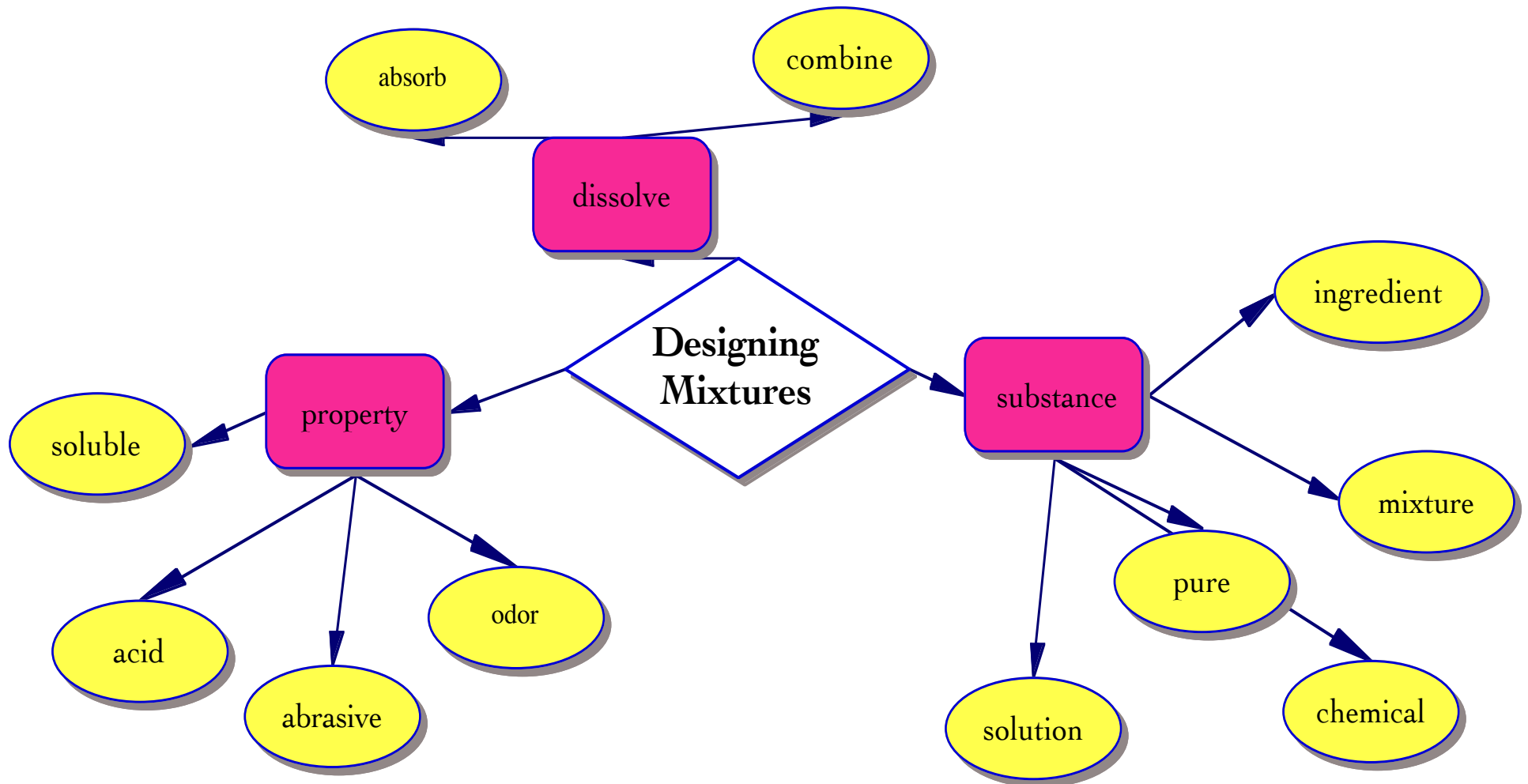


(b) The rare words in
informational texts
belong to topical
networks.

Informational Text

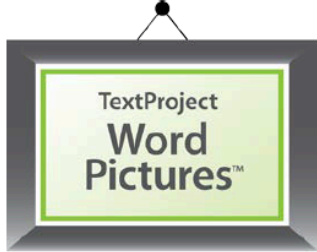
A simple solution is basically two substances that are evenly mixed together. One of them is called the **solute** and the other is the **solvent**. A solute is the substance to be dissolved (sugar). The **solvent** is the one doing the dissolving (water). As a rule of thumb, there is usually more **solvent** than **solute**. The amount of **solute** that can be dissolved by the **solvent** is defined as **solubility**.

An Example of a Topical Network





Small Change 3b. Teach vocabulary in topic networks.



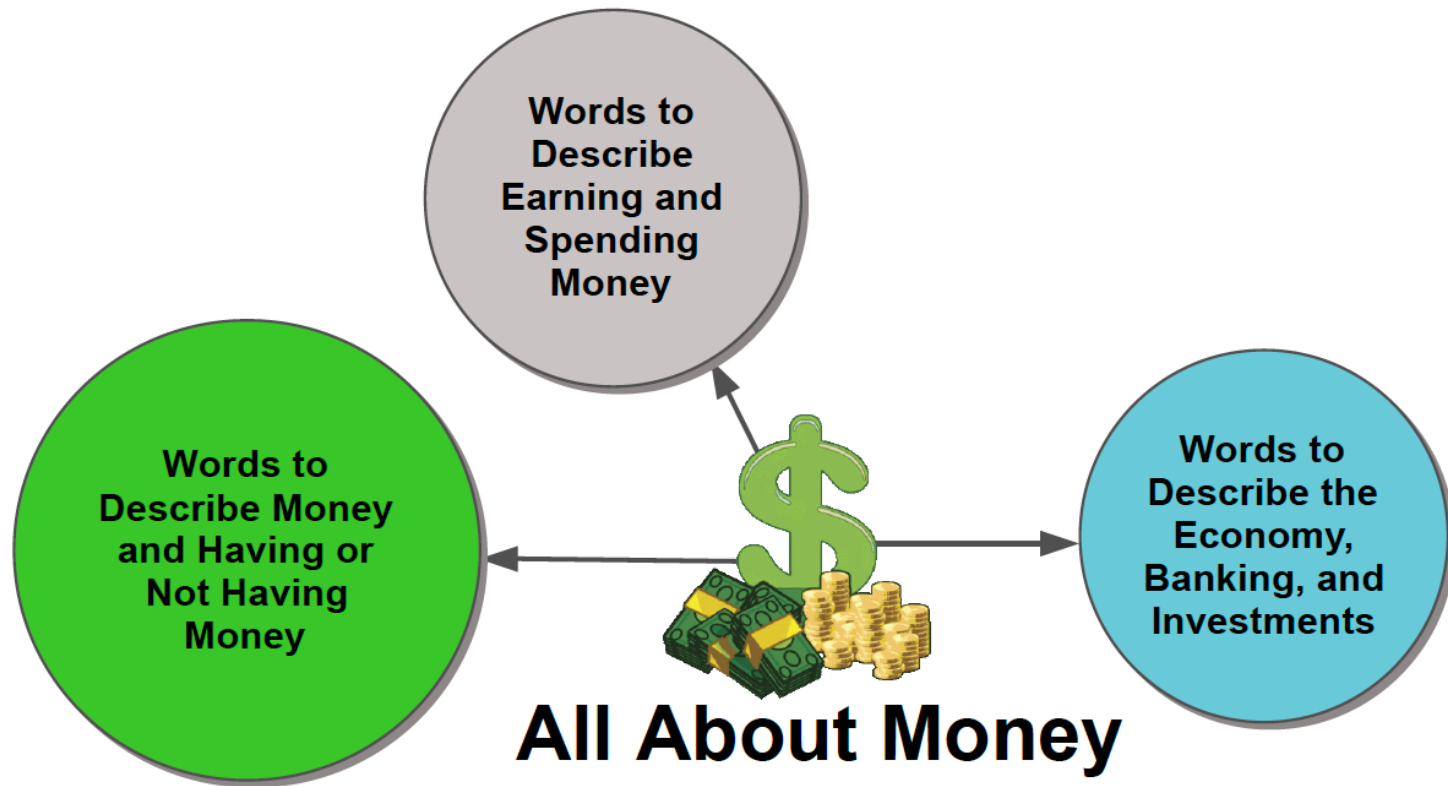
All About Money—

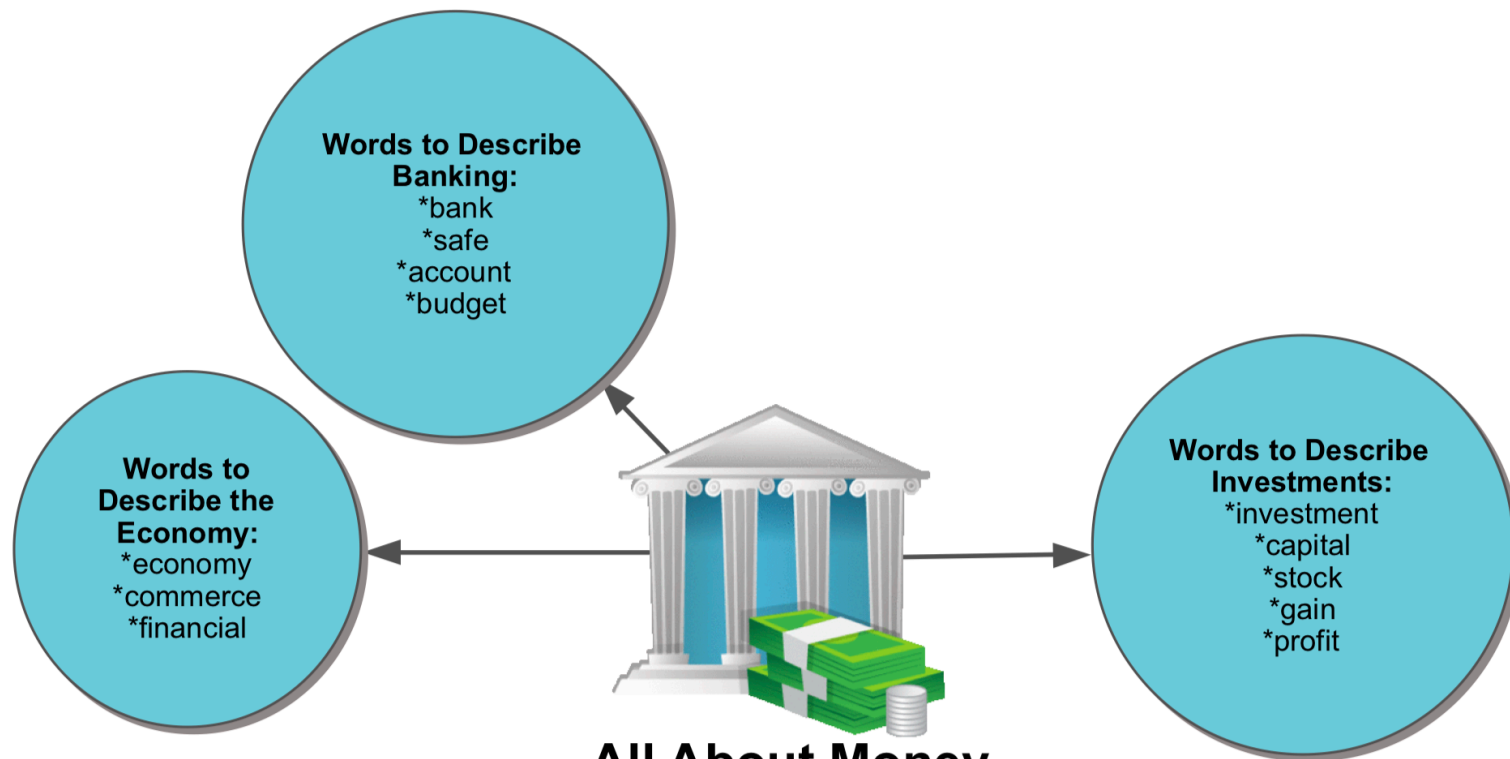
Words to Describe Money and Having
or Not Having Money



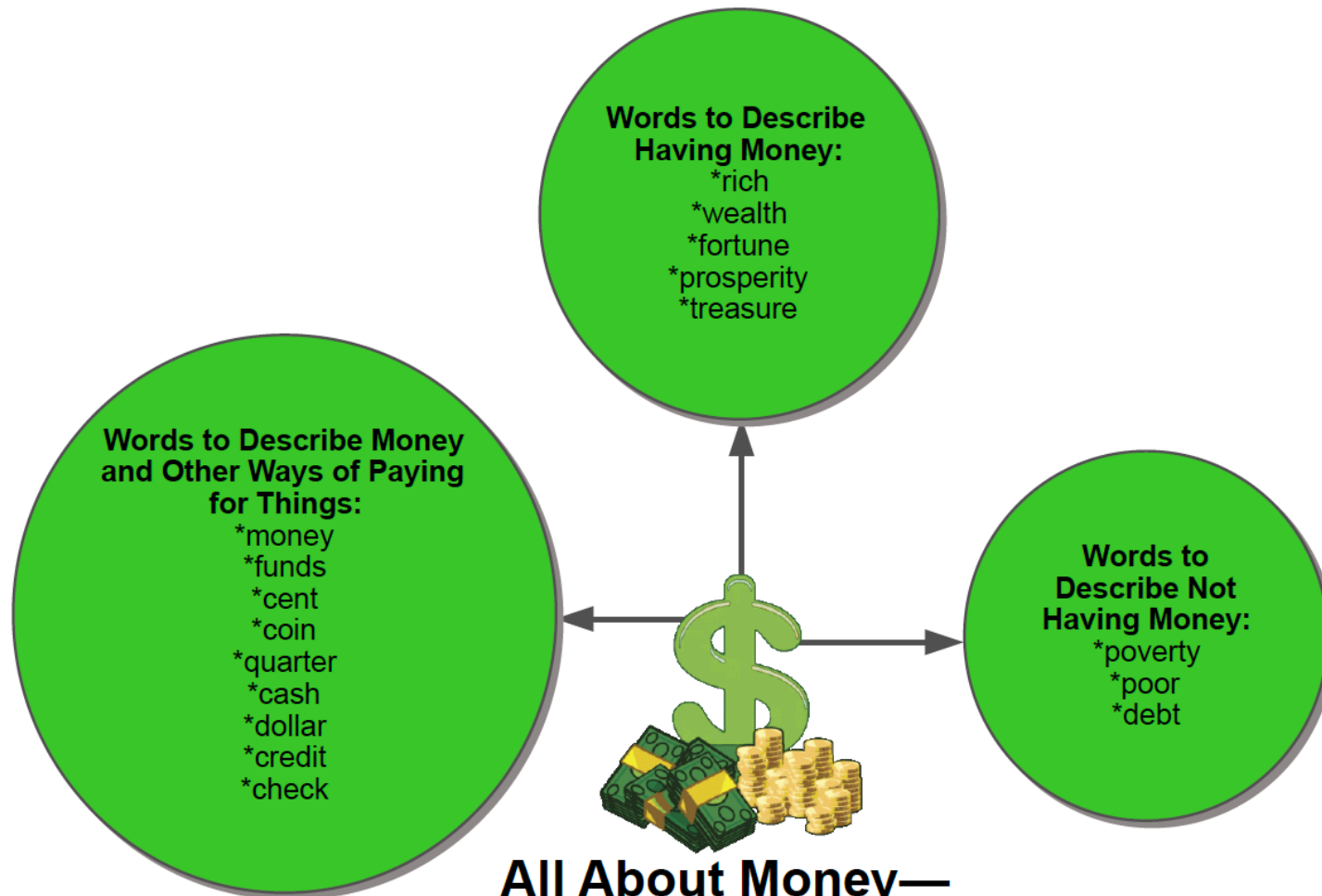
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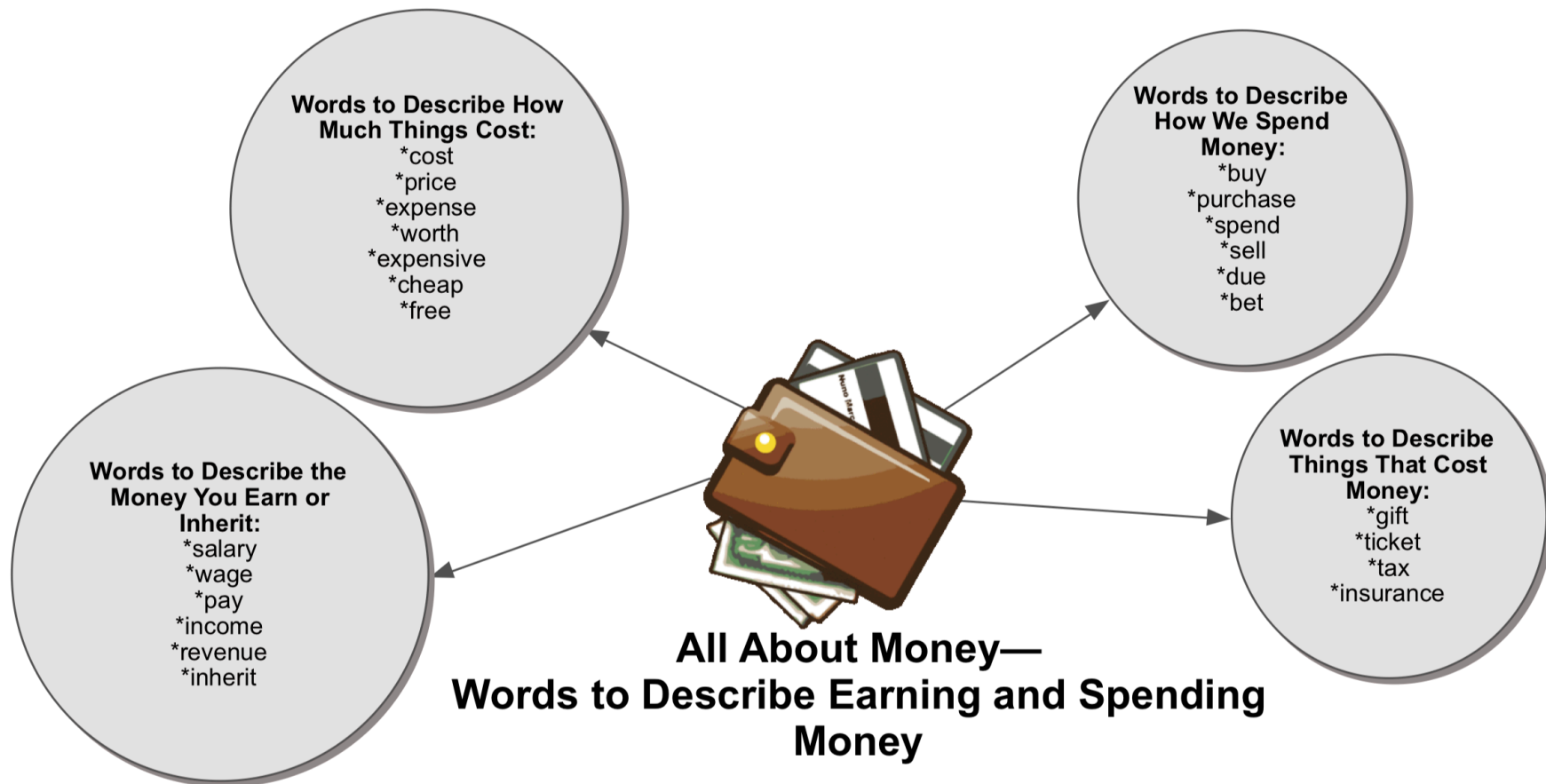


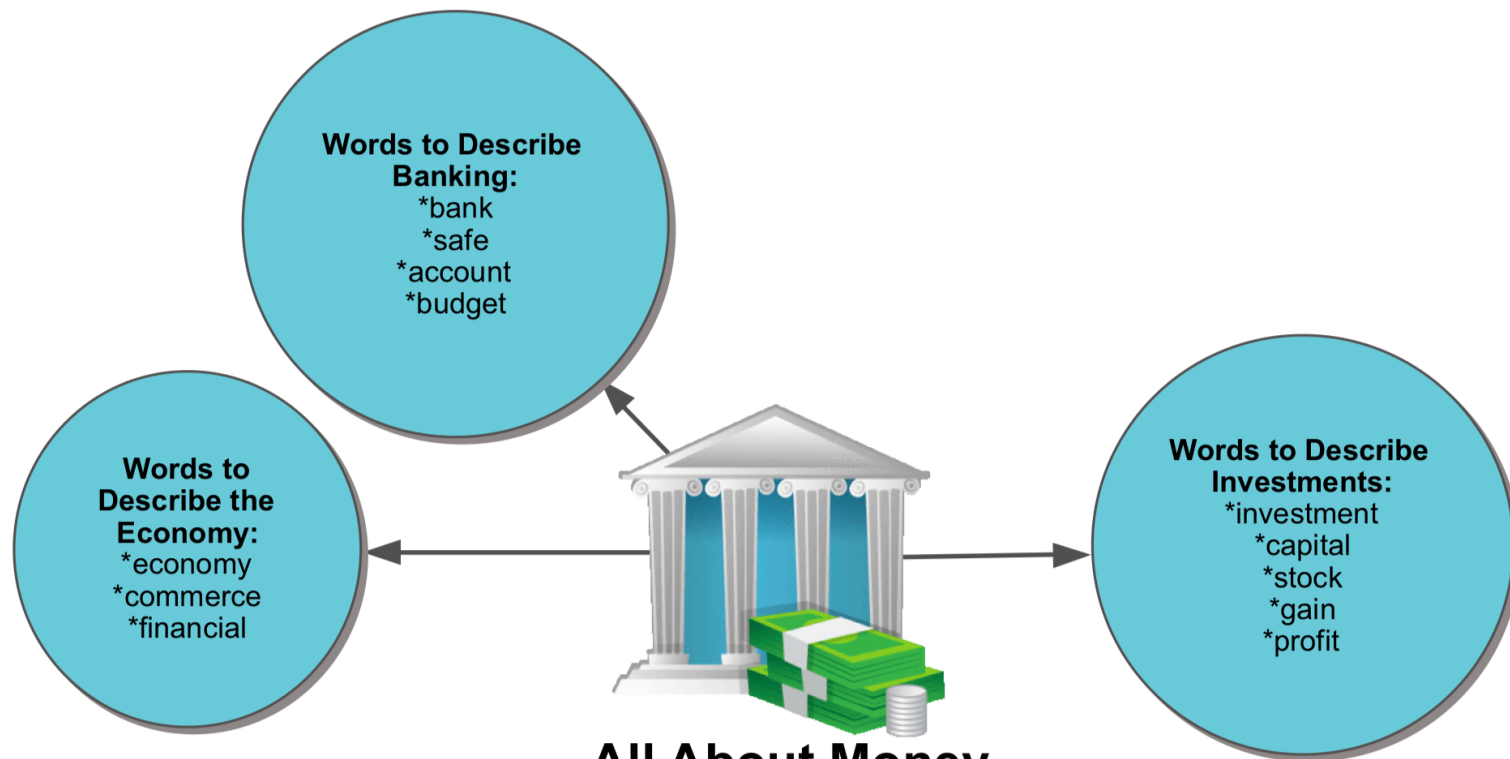


**All About Money—
Words to Describe the Economy, Banking,
and Investments**



**All About Money—
Words to Describe Money and Having or
Not Having Money**





**All About Money—
Words to Describe the Economy, Banking,
and Investments**



commerce

(com·merce)

Commerce describes the buying and selling of goods.

account

(ac·count)

An *account* is an arrangement made with a bank where you may deposit (put in) and withdraw (take out) money.



gain

(gain)

A financial *gain* is an increase in money.



profit

(prof·it)

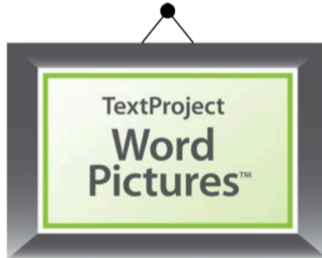
Profit is an increase in money after all expenses are subtracted.

capital

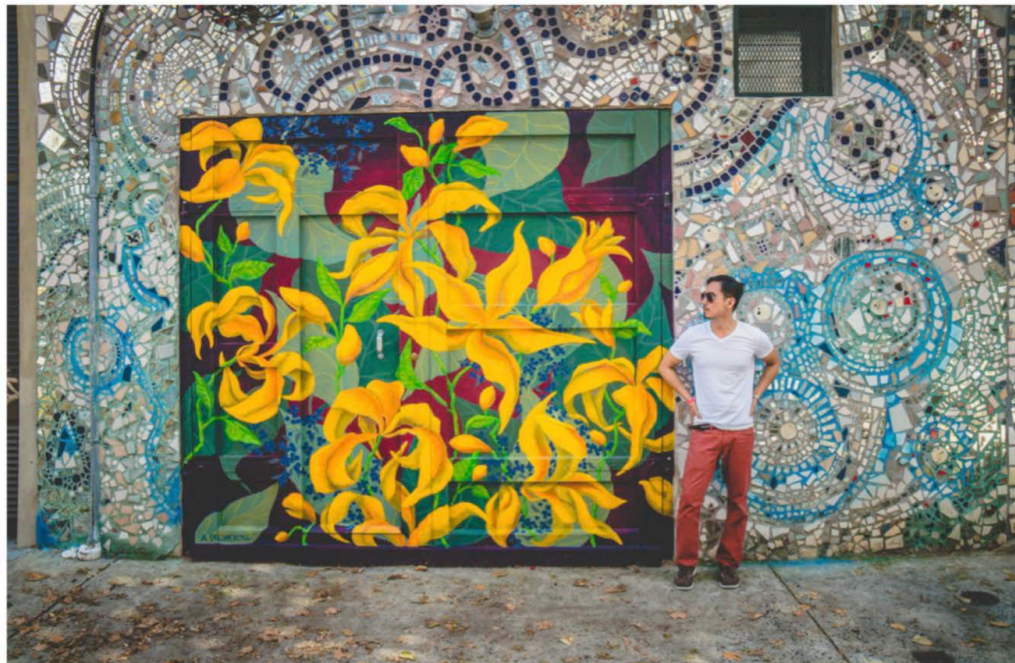
(cap·i·tal)

Capital is money that is made by using other money.





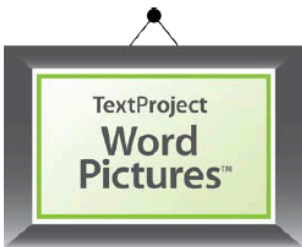
The Arts— About the Arts



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Elements, Minerals, and Rocks

Elements and Minerals



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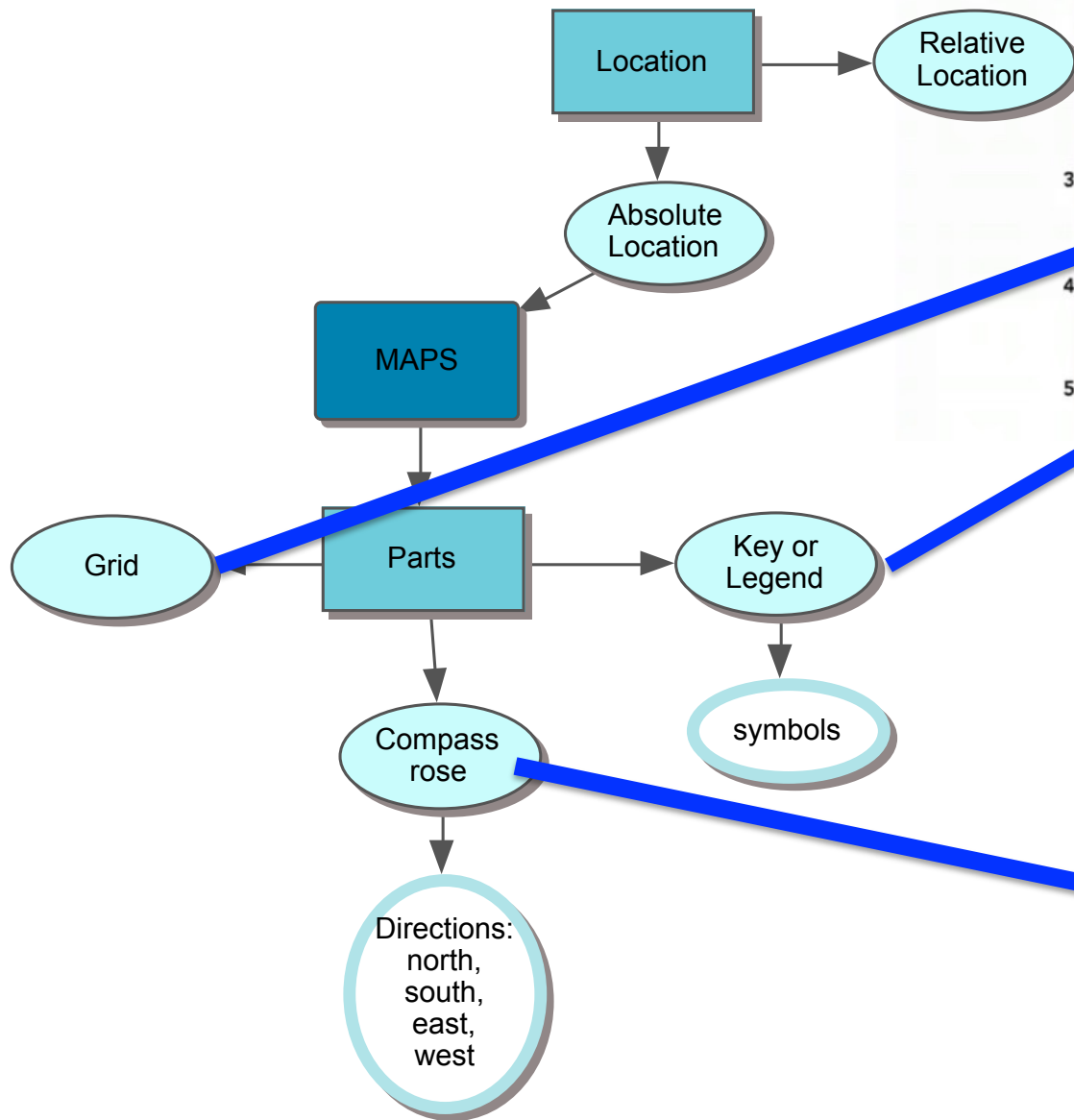
Fashion and Design—

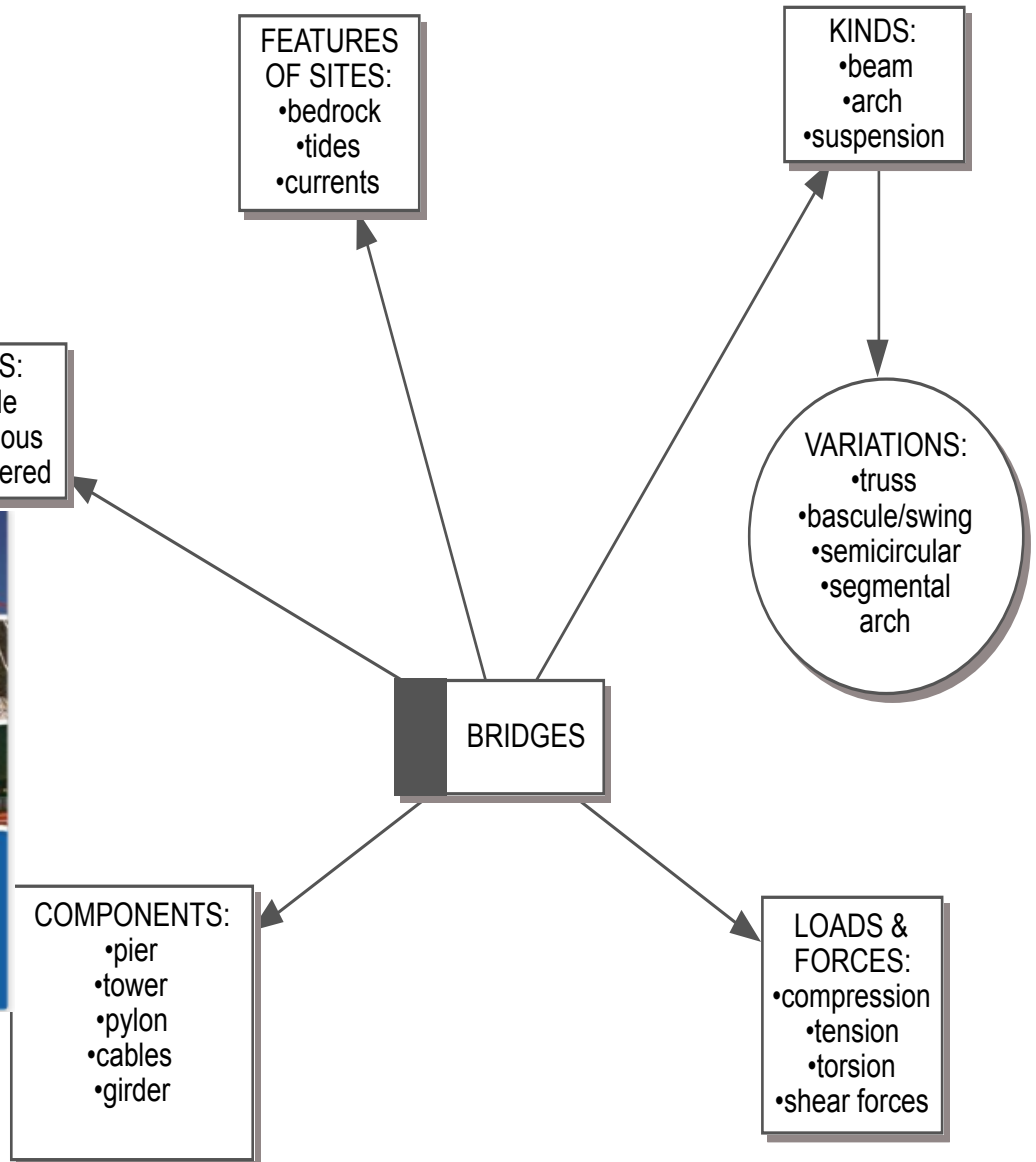
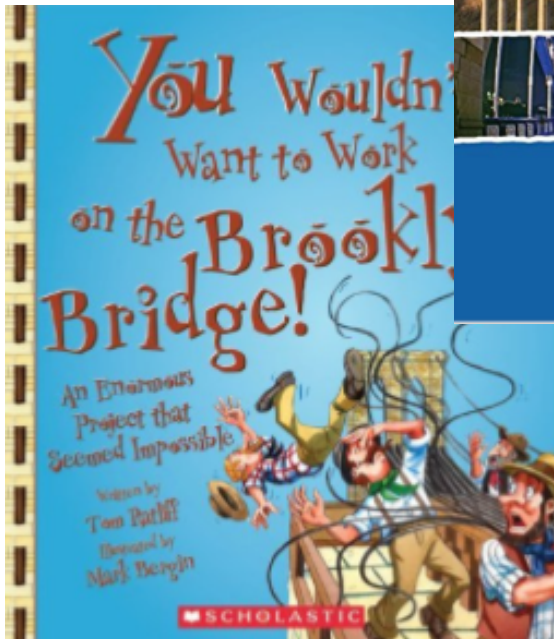
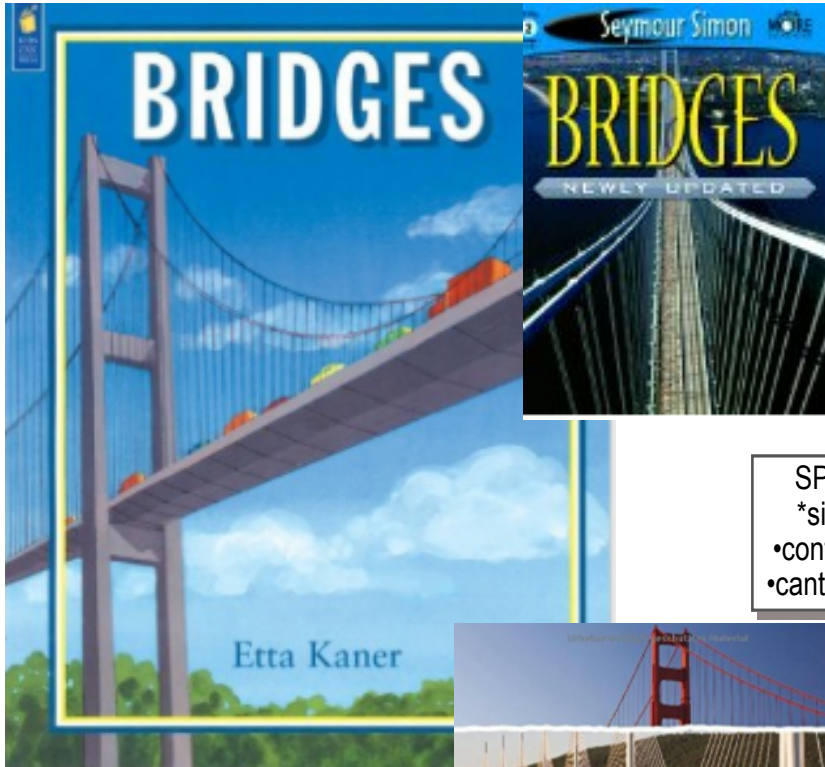
General and Specific Fashion and Design Terms



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Idea	Small Change	Open-Access Resource
1. English has more words than can be taught.	1. Teach students to expect new words in texts.	1. Talking Points for Teachers: New Words in New Texts
2. A small group of words does the heavy lifting in English.	2. Increase volume of reading	2. 7 minutes of additional reading daily, especially of magazine articles
3. Rare words in narrative texts belong to synonym networks; those in informational texts in topic networks.	3. Teach students prolific synonym networks & organize topics into networks.	3. •Super Synonym Sets for Stories (S4) •Exceptional Expressions in Everyday Events (E4)



TextProject



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