

Unique Words Require Unique Instruction: Teaching Words in Stories and Informational Books



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Narrative (high)



her
and she the
of that he showed her; the
sand of the the
and and
in and
in



Narrative (rare)



Iemanja's daughter loved her husband, and she loved the magic of daylight that he showed her; the shimmering sand of the beach, the rows and rows of cocoa and sugarcane baking in sunlight, and the sparkling jewels and feathered costumes worn in harvest festivals.

Informational (high)



Particles in an object move because they have energy. As an object becomes hotter, its particles move faster. As the object cools, the particles move more slowly. Thermal energy is energy due to moving particles that make up matter. We feel the flow of thermal energy as heat.

Informational (moderate)

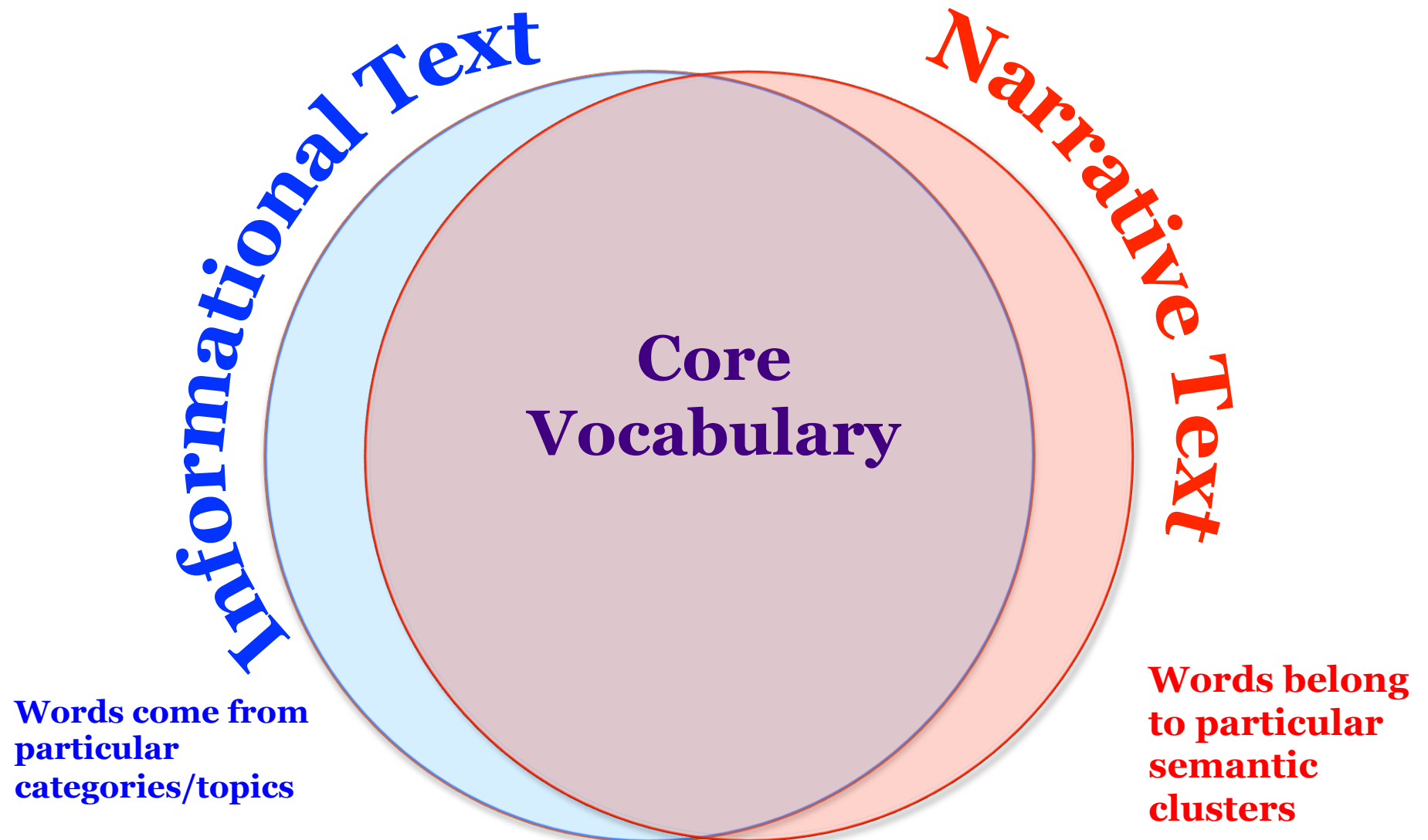
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Informational (rare)



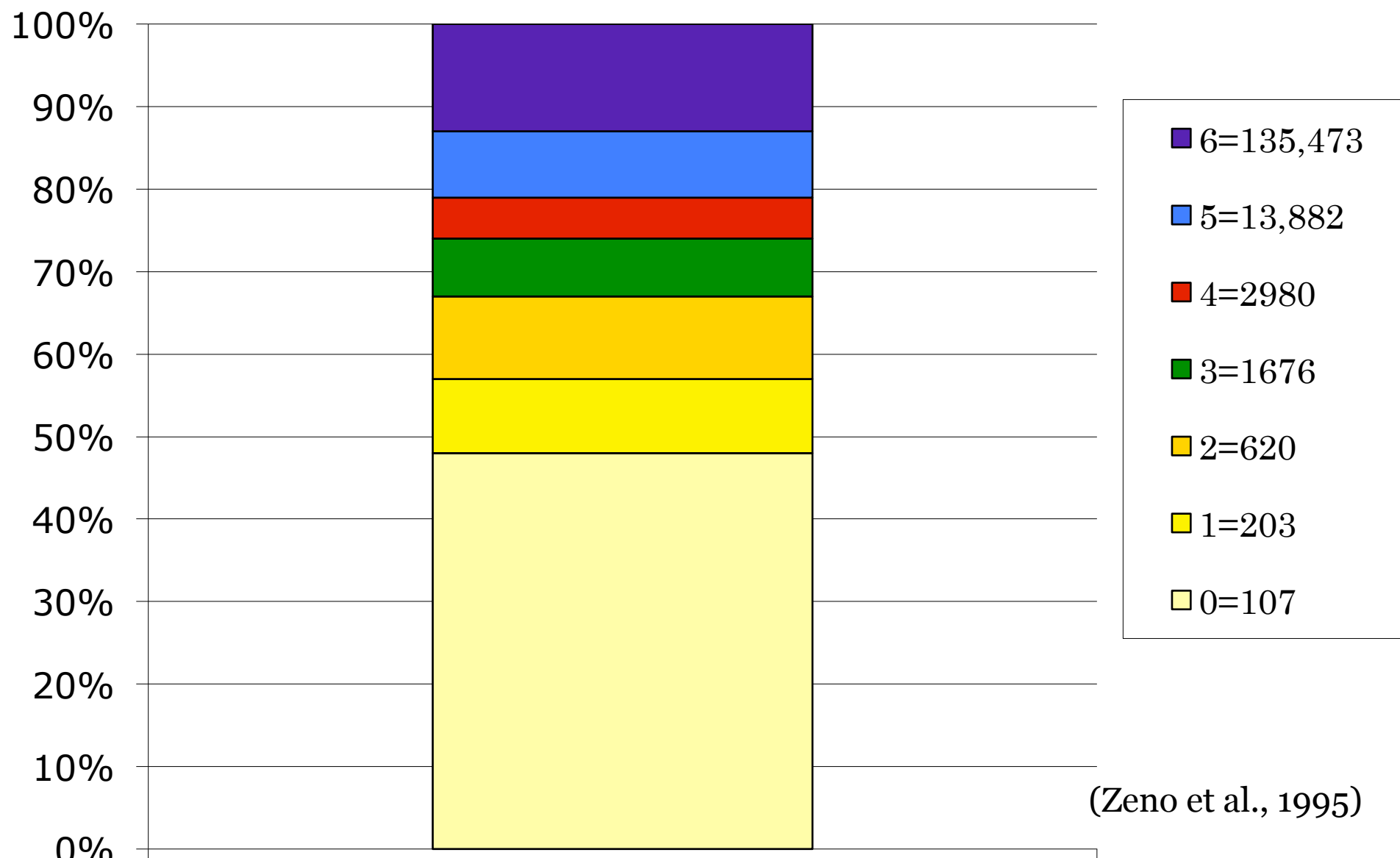
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Vocabularies of informational & narrative texts



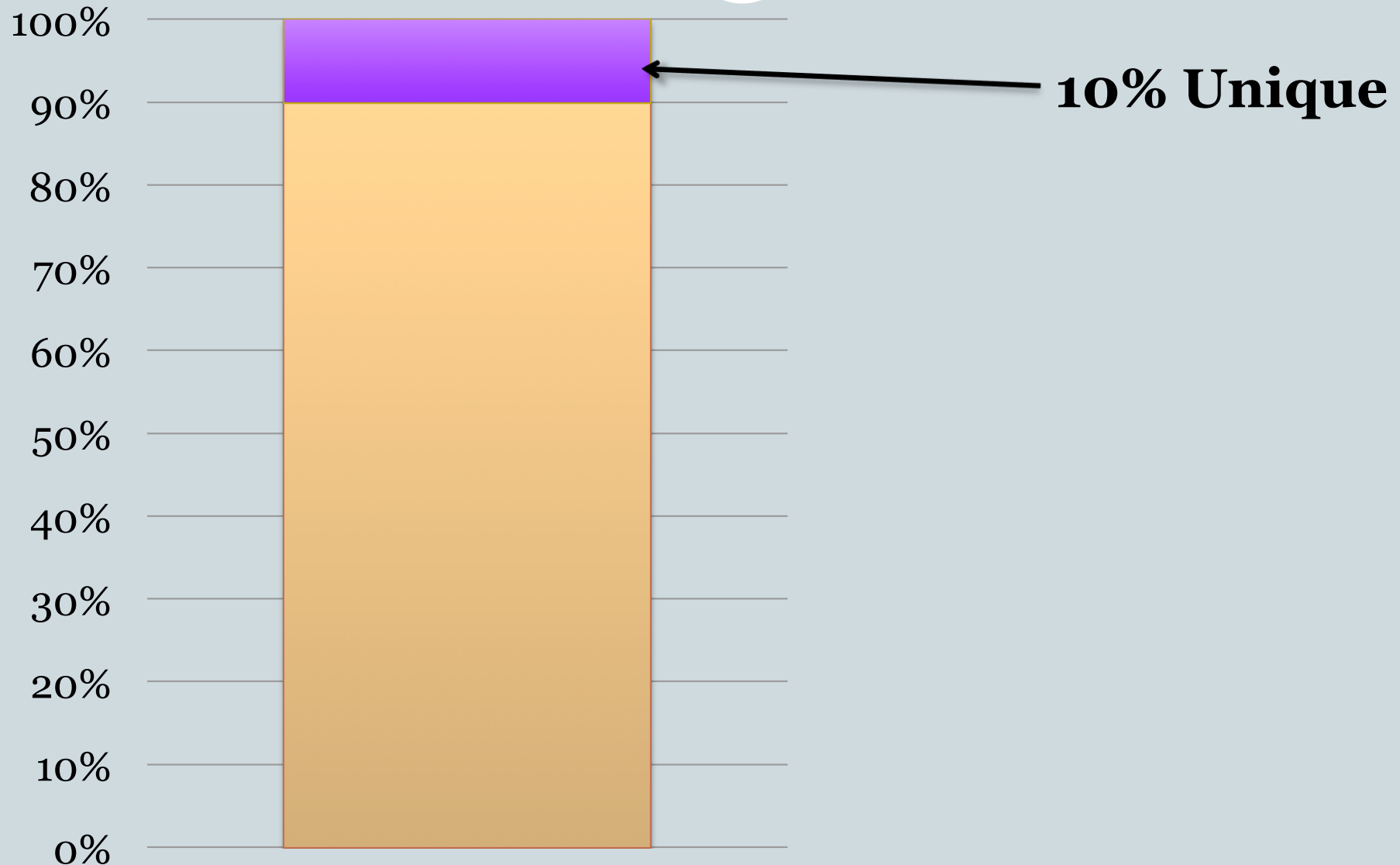
Core and Extended Vocabularies: Words in American Textbooks

Word Zones™



(Zeno et al., 1995)

Proportion of Vocabulary

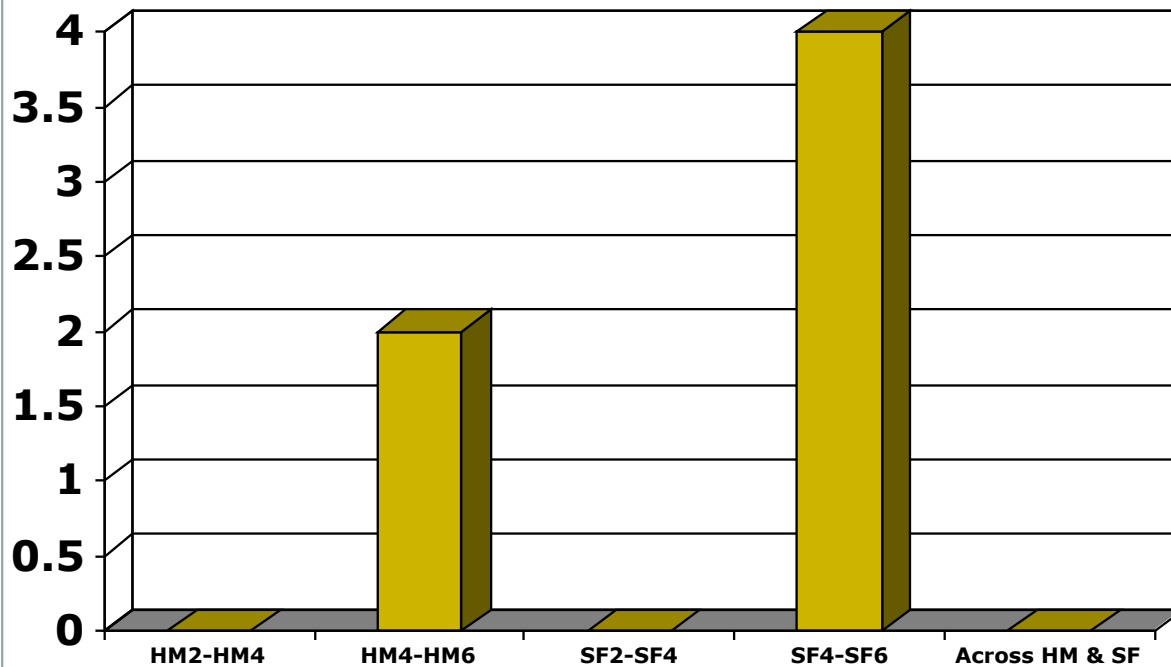


Proportions of CORE Vocabulary within Exemplars of CCSS



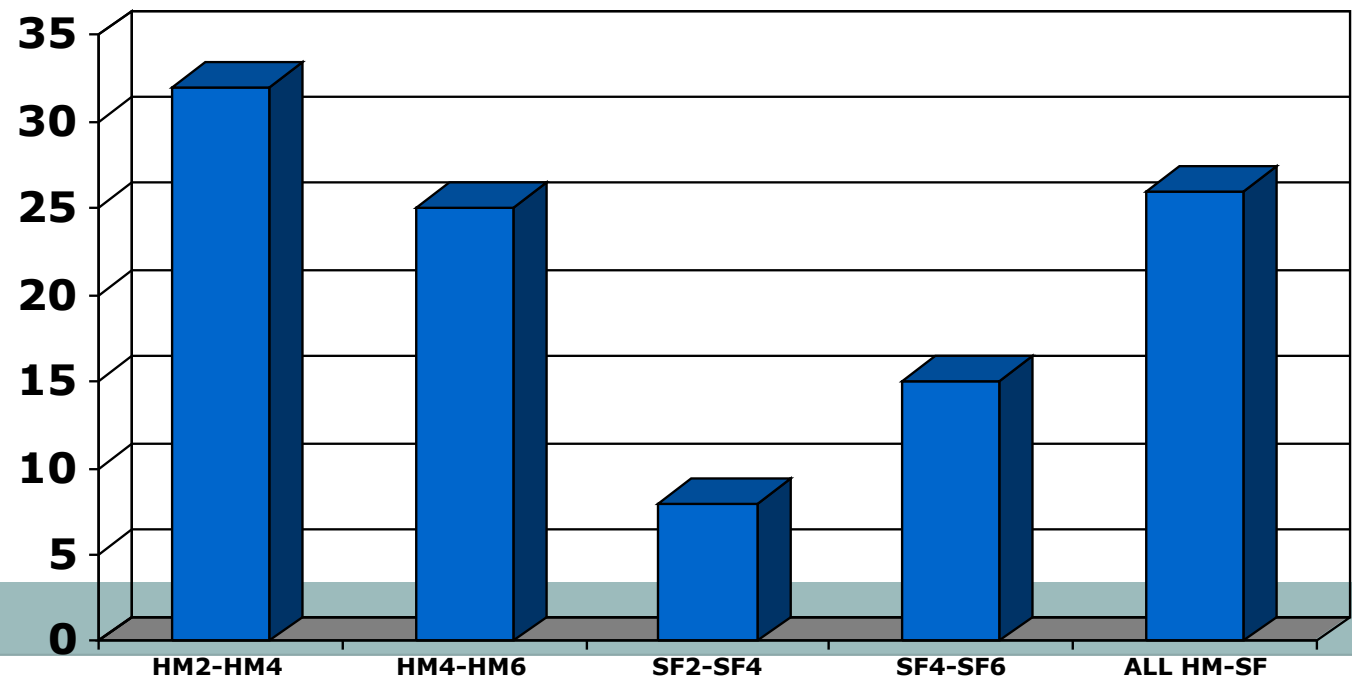
Grade	Narrative	Informational
2-3	.93	.92
4-5	.92	.91
6-8	.93	.87
9-10	.89	.91
11-CCR	.89	.87

Shared Unique Vocabulary in Instructional Texts



Reading/Language Arts

Science



Teaching CORE CONCEPT Vocabulary: An Illustration

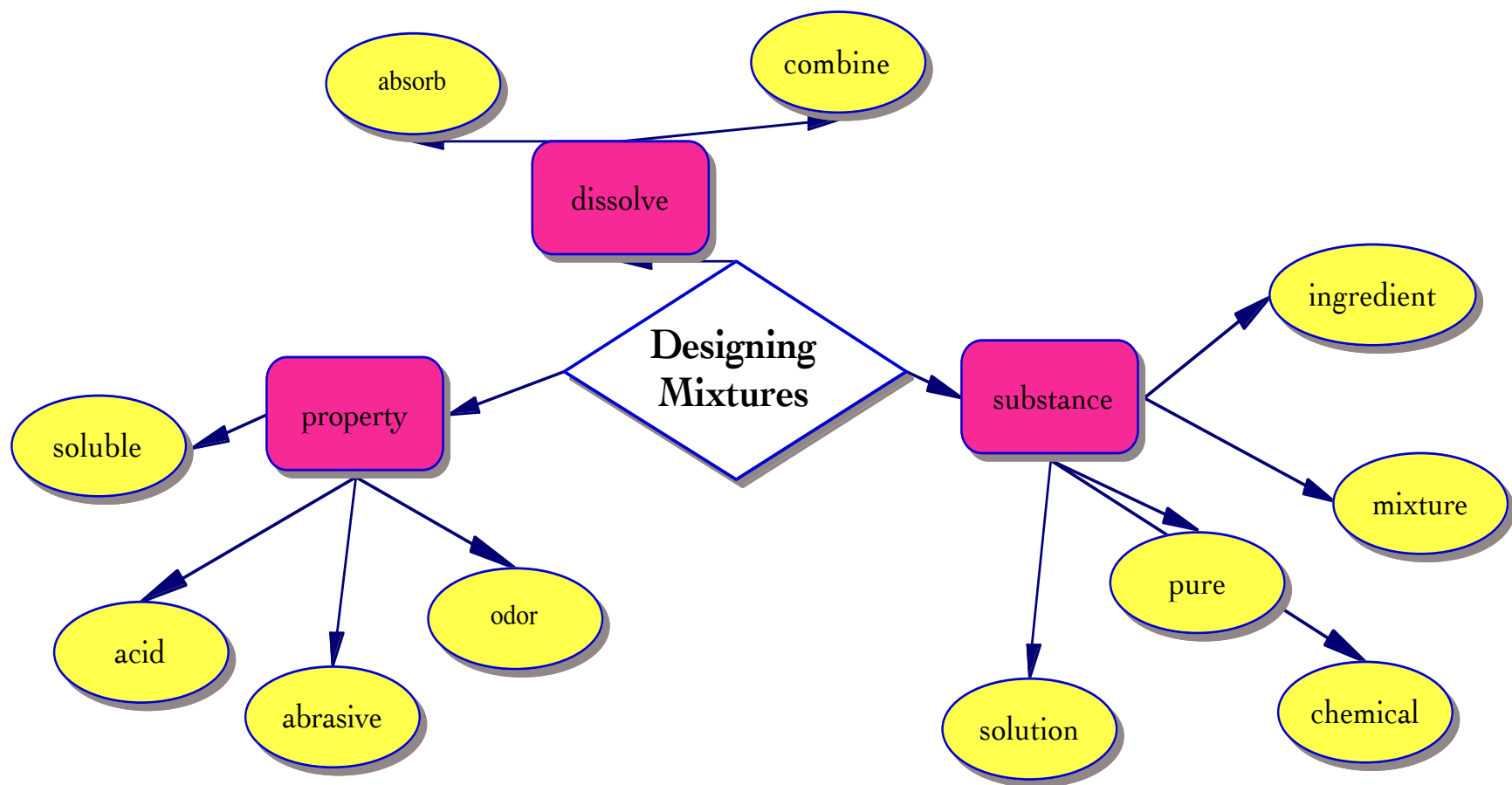
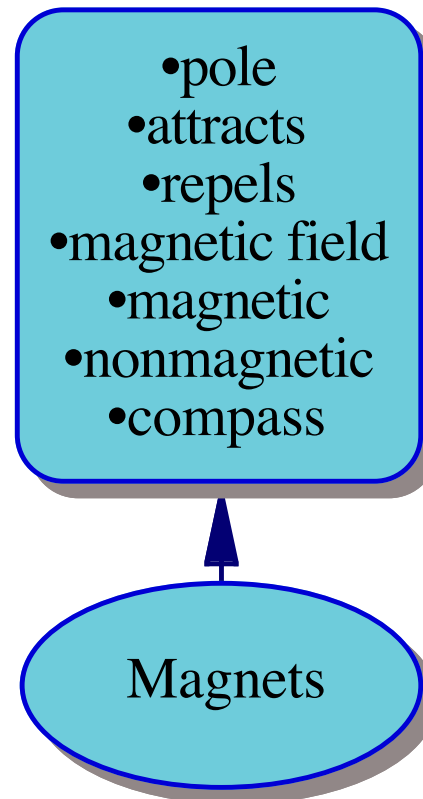
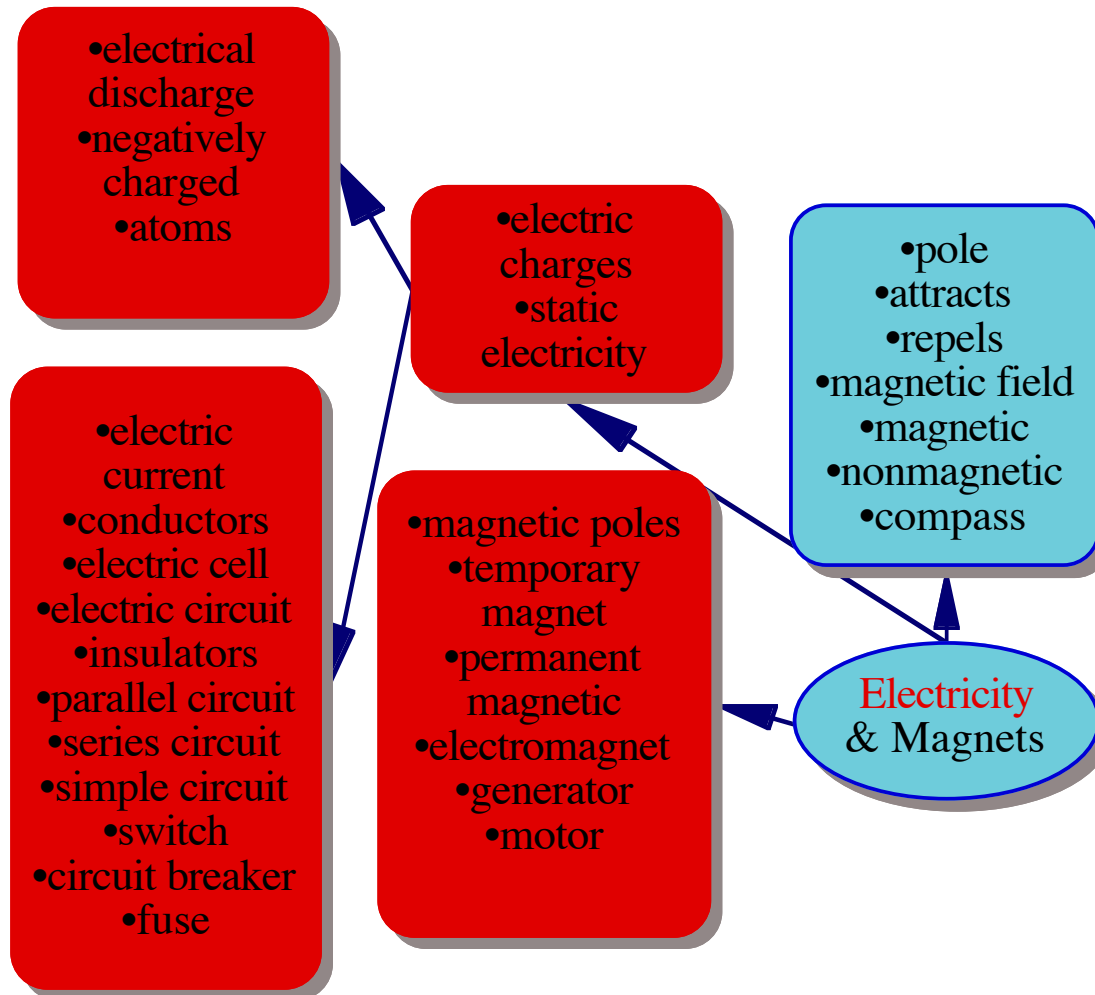


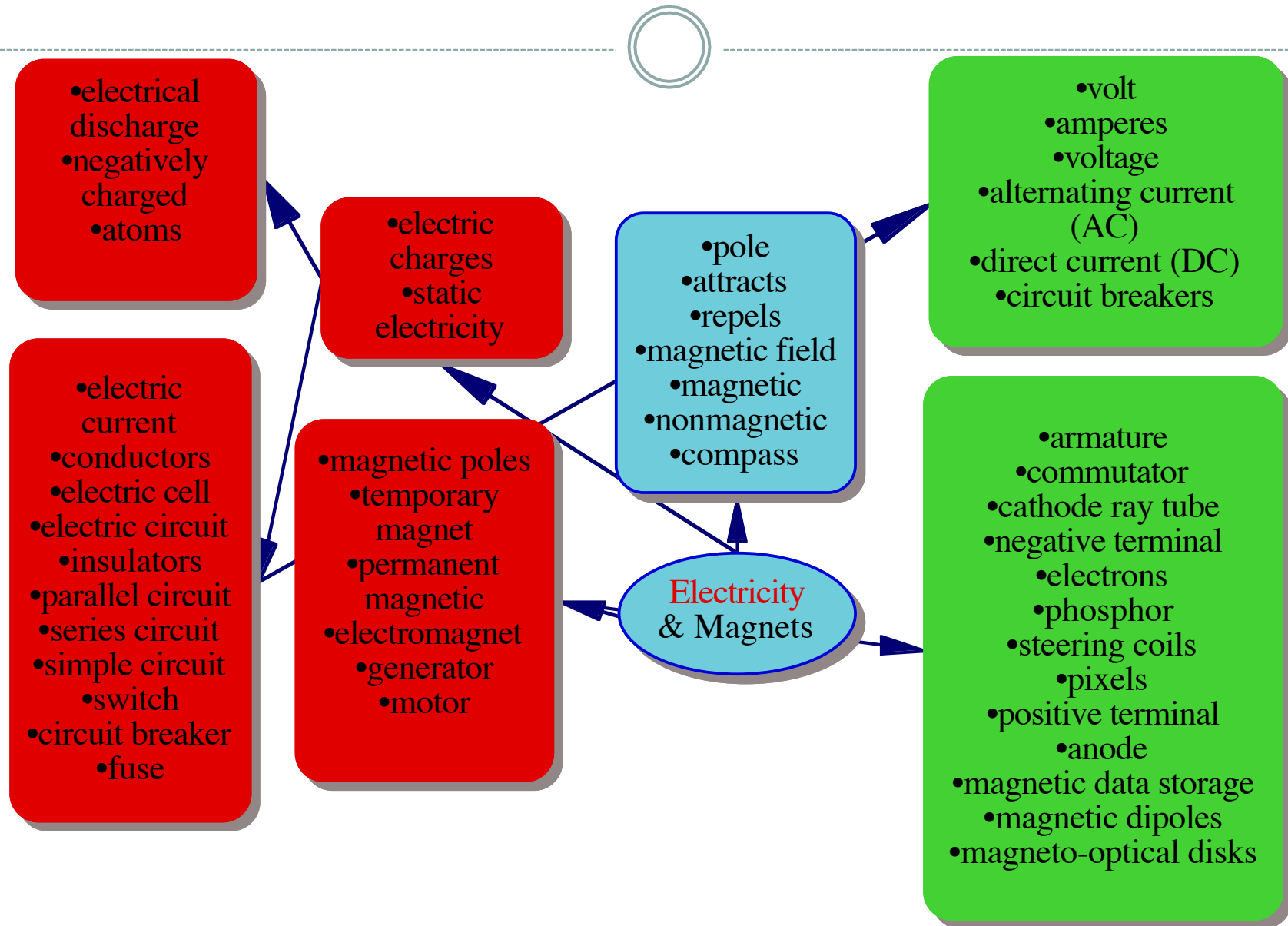
Illustration: Content-Specific Science Vocabulary (Grade 2)



Grades 2 & 4



Grades 2, 4 & 6



2. Informational Vocabulary: How to teach it

In-depth
experiences with
concepts

[illustrated with the
sequence in
Lawrence Hall of
Science Seeds of
Science/Roots of
Reading Program]



Do it



Students test ingredients and mixtures to learn more about possible glue ingredients and to select those that are stickiest



Talk it



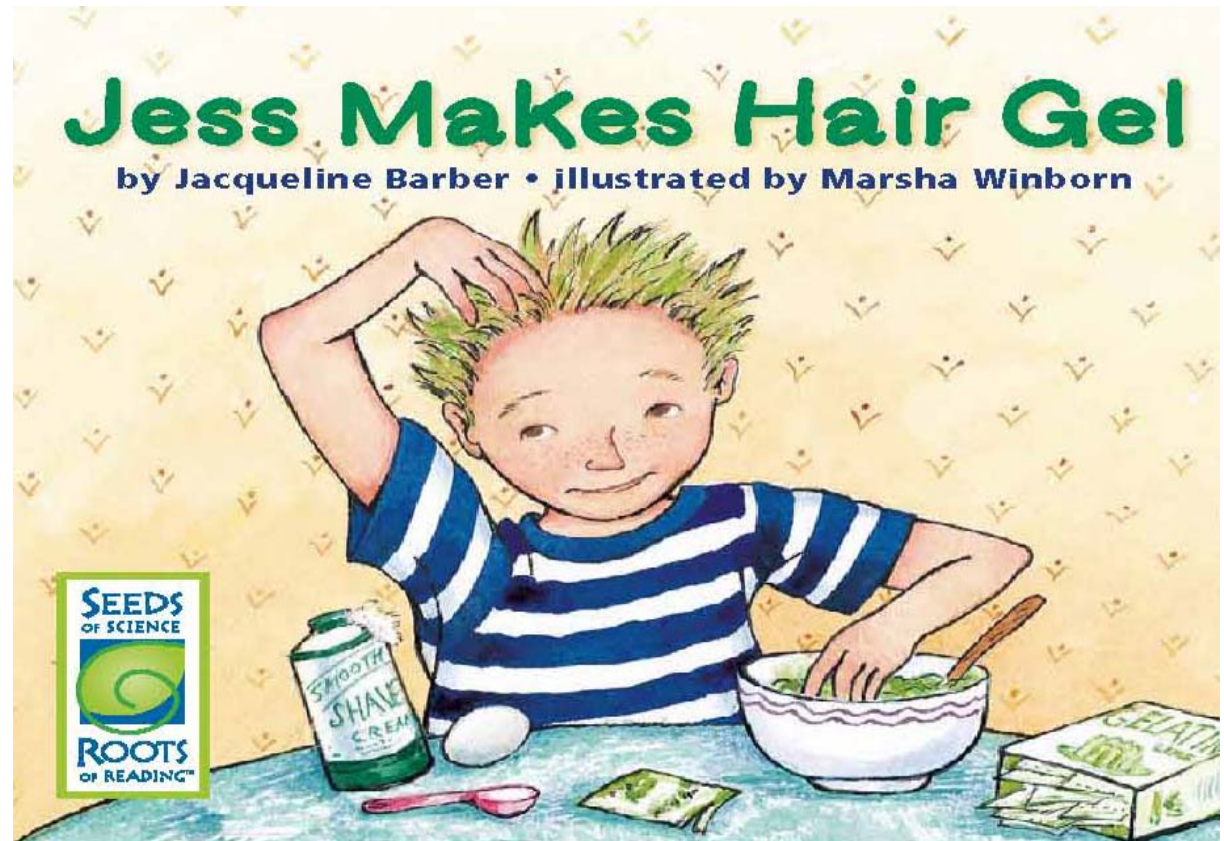
Students evaluate results and decide which ingredients to use to make glue



Read it



Students read a book that models the design process



Conceptually Complex Words



Of numerous factors, only conceptual difficulty was significantly related to learning from context (Nagy, Anderson, & Herman, 1987)

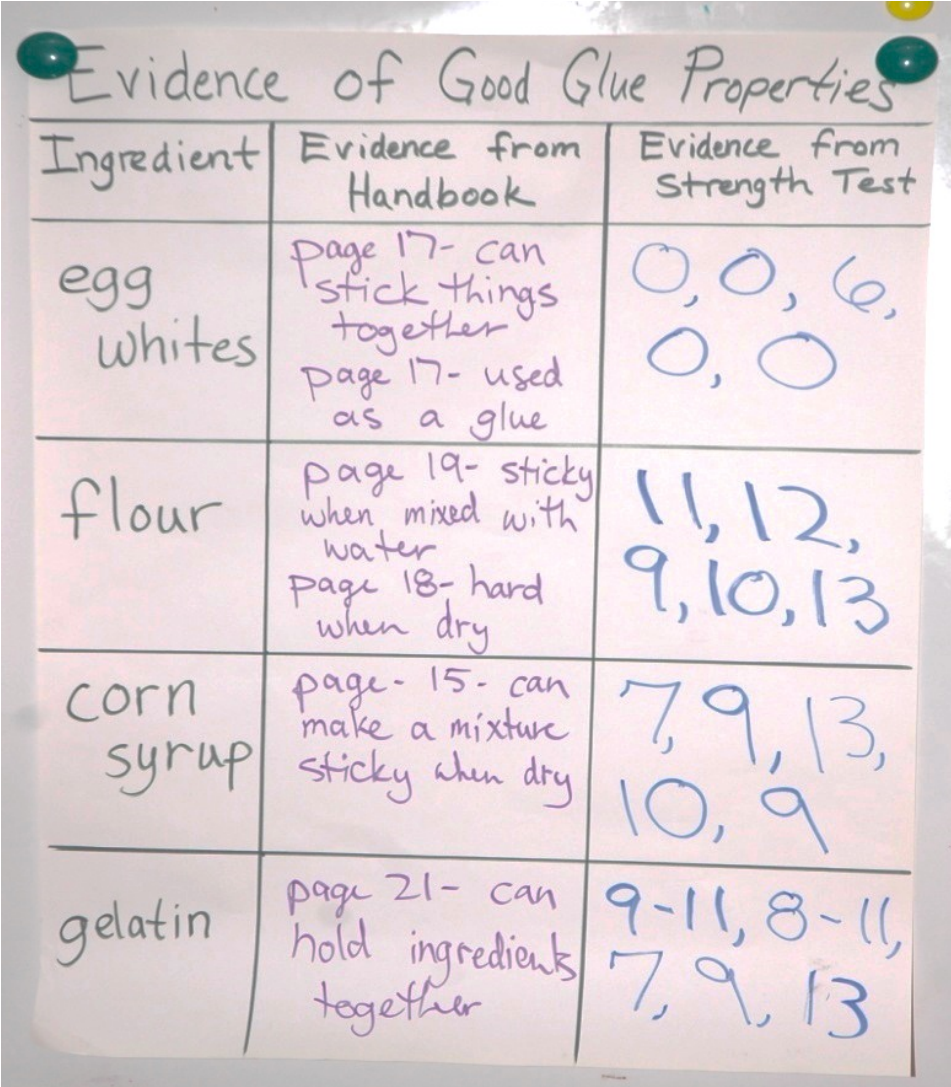
1. Known concepts with one-word synonym (e.g., *altercation*=fight)
2. Known concepts that can be expressed in a familiar phrase (e.g., *apologize*=to say you're sorry)
3. Unknown concept that can be learned from available experiences & information (e.g., *naïve*)
4. Unknown concept that is based on new factual information or a related system of concepts (e.g., *divide* as “boundary between drainage basins” requires knowing about river systems)



	Narrative	Informational
Familiarity (LWV Grade)*	6	7.5
Frequency (U function)*	13.7	39.1
Frequency of Morphological Family	26.7	31
Dispersion Index	.60	.61
Length*	.73	7.8
Conceptual Complexity *	1.4	2.3

Write it

Students use their records from first and secondhand sources to decide what combination of ingredients best meets their design goals.



A handwritten table titled "Evidence of Good Glue Properties" is shown. The table has three columns: "Ingredient", "Evidence from Handbook", and "Evidence from Strength Test". It lists four ingredients: egg whites, flour, corn syrup, and gelatin, with their respective properties and test results.

Ingredient	Evidence from Handbook	Evidence from Strength Test
egg whites	page 17- can stick things together page 17- used as a glue	0, 0, 6, 0, 0
flour	page 19- sticky when mixed with water page 18- hard when dry	11, 12, 9, 10, 13
corn syrup	page- 15- can make a mixture sticky when dry	7, 9, 13, 10, 9
gelatin	page 21- can hold ingredients together	9-11, 8-11, 7, 9, 13

Conceptually Complex Words from Grade 6 Narrative & Science Texts



	Categories 1-3	Category 4
Narrative	100% (slithering, wincing, kindling, gestures)	
Science	64% (absorb, microscope)	36% (e.g.: fermentation, cytoplasm)

Natural Resources & the Economy



Left Photo: Typical rocky shores. September, 2009. ©2009 by Petritap in en:wikimedia. Some rights reserved CC-BY-SA-3.0 (www.creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/deed.en).

Middle: Refilling a 18L water jug. Released into public domain by Myke2020 in en:wikimedia.

Right: A child drinks water from a well built by Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 40 in Shant Abak. Released into public domain by the United States Navy.

Corresponds to QuickReads Level D, book 2, Geography and Economics, *Natural Resources & the Economy*

Factories



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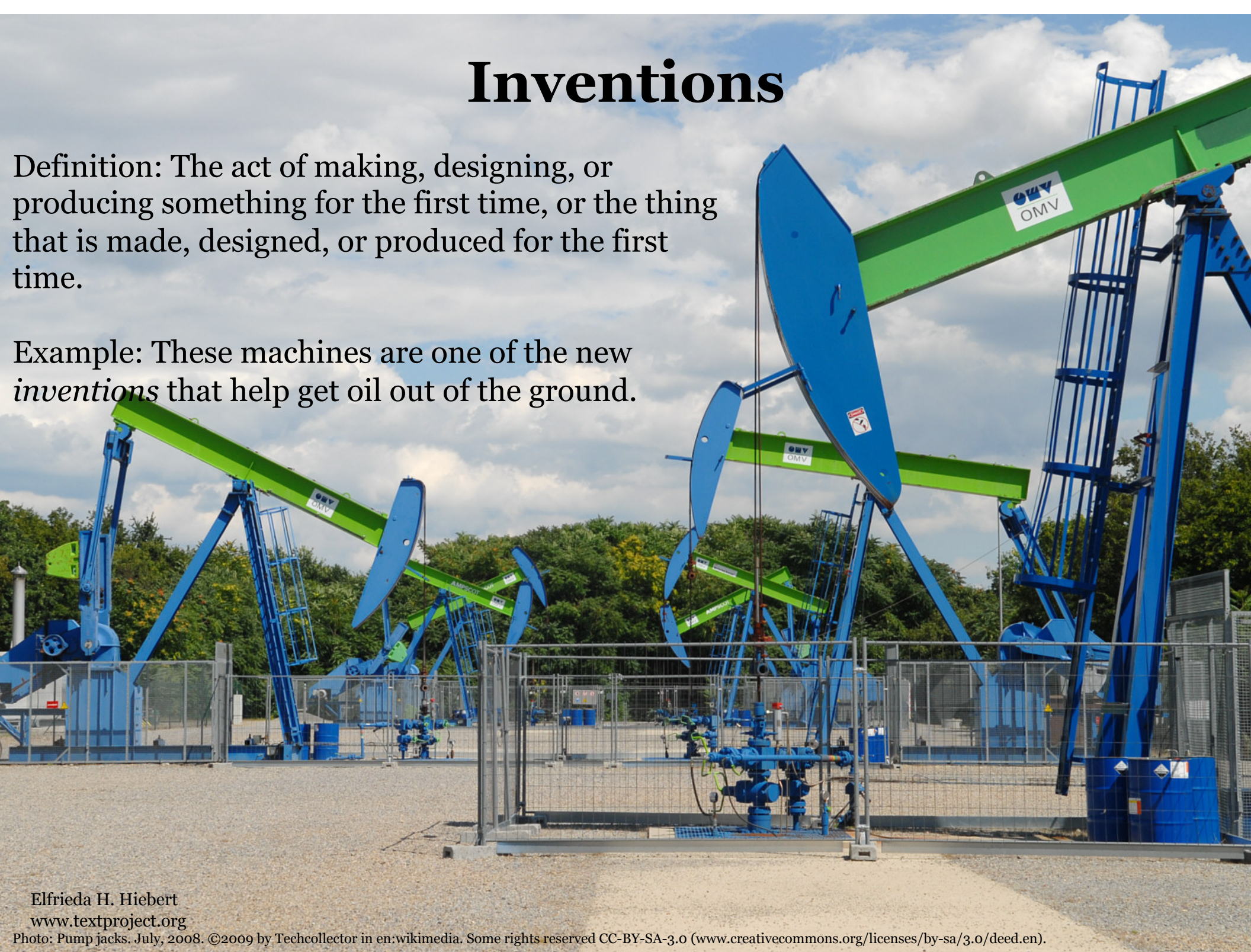


Left Photo: Factory. September, 2010. ©2010 by Hugo.arg. In en:wikimedia. Some rights reserved CC-BY-SA-3.0 (www.creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/deed.en).
Top right: Worker in bottle factory. June, 2008. ©2008 by Seattle Municipal Archives. Some rights reserved CC-BY-2.0 (www.creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/deed.en).
Bottom right: Sugar Factory. Unknown date. Taken by Skuratov S S. in en:wikimedia. Released into public domain by the copyright holder. Skuratov S S.

Inventions

Definition: The act of making, designing, or producing something for the first time, or the thing that is made, designed, or produced for the first time.

Example: These machines are one of the new *inventions* that help get oil out of the ground.



Resources

Definition: Something such as land, mineral, or natural energy that exists in a country and can be used in order to increase its wealth

Example: Trees are a natural *resource* that humans use to make paper.



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Left photo: Not Opened 8, March, 2005. ©2007 by Malene Thyssen. Some rights reserved CC-BY-SA-2.5 (www.creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.5/deed.en). Right: Two A7 notebook. January, 2011. ©2011 by Mk2010 in en:wikimedia. Some rights reserved CC-BY-SA-3.0 (www.creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/deed.en).

Conceptually Complex Words from Grade 6 Narrative & Science Texts



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Teaching the Words of Stories

Story Word	Cluster	Examples of Words in Cluster (Beyond Story)
amazed	Emotions/Feelings/Happy Excitement	surprised jubilant ecstatic dumbfounded
fascinated		
marveled		
baffled	Communication/Mental Actions/Confused	confused bewildered mystified perplexed confounded
bewildered		
stumped		
humble	Traits/Shyness/Meek	reluctant retiring self-effacing
timid		



Talk

Exceptional Expressions for Everyday Events

Talking is, of course, a ubiquitous human activity. In schools, students talk to one another in the classroom, on the playground, or in the lunchroom. Teachers talk to give instruction or to counsel students. Students talk to teachers to respond to questions or to express a concern. Describing different types of talking is one way to bring exceptional expressions into everyday events.

The word **talk** can be used as a verb as well as a noun. **To talk** is to communicate verbally, through speaking rather than writing. Since the way we talk carries with it our emotions and goals, spoken communication can take many forms. Shouting, whispering, and preaching convey very different attitudes on the part of the speaker, which in turn will affect the reactions of those who hear what is said.

Talk as a noun is the act of verbally communicating. A teacher can have a talk with his or her students about bullying. As with the verb **talk**, there are a variety of synonyms for the noun **talk**. For example, a teacher can have a serious discussion or conversation about bullying.

Follow-Ups

- How is articulating different from talking?
- How might a discussion be different from an utterance? A speech?

The Spanish Connection

Talk comes from a Middle English word, *talkien* or *talken*. The Spanish word for **to talk** is *hablar*. *Hablar* is not a Spanish cognate of **to talk**.

Word Changes

- Some synonyms of **talk** are also used as both verbs and nouns, for example, **chat**, **lecture**, and **gossip**.
- Many of the idioms and common phrases for **talk** incorporate the mannerism and intent of the speaker. For example, a person who “talks big” is someone who is boasting. “To talk in circles” is to repeat the same idea in a different manner that reveals nothing new and may even confuse the listener.





Talk

Talk as in a conversation (noun)

- conversation
- chat
- discussion
- slang
- dialogue
- chatter
- lecture
- address
- speech
- meeting
- conference
- summit
- utterance
- gossip
- comment
- debate

Talk as in to speak casually (verb)

- chat/chatter
- scuttlebutt
- gossip
- comment
- smooze
- mention
- say
- utter
- remark

Talk as in to speak (verb)

- speak
- verbalize
- converse
- vocalize
- articulate
- communicate
- confer
- dialogue

Talk as in to speak in a specific way (verb)

- whisper
- flirt
- snap
- shout
- yell
- orate
- lecture
- pontificate
- address
- drone
- stammer
- bark
- slur
- bay
- jabber
- chant
- preach
- boast
- debate
- enunciate
- pronounce
- question
- ask
- declare



Talk

COMMON PHRASES

- Talk to me
- Talk back
- Talk over
- We need to talk

IDIOMS

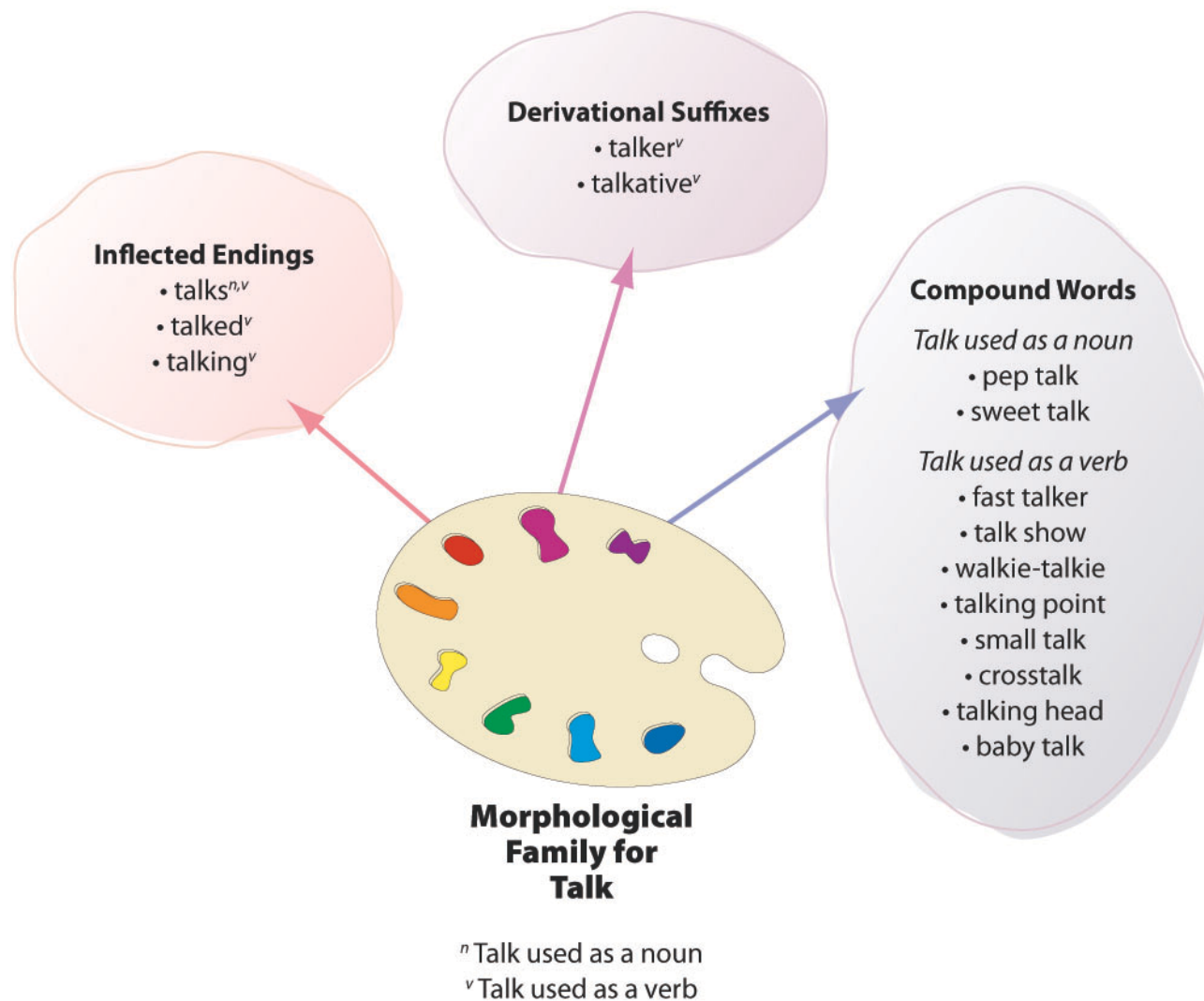
- Talk a mile a minute
- Spit it out
- Talk big
- Talk sense
- Dance around the topic
- Speak up
- Talk it up
- Talk down
- Talk is cheap
- Talk it over
- Talking to a brick wall
- Talk of the town
- Small talk
- Speak of the devil
- Sweet talk
- Talk your ear off
- Talk in circles/riddles
- Talk shop
- Walk the talk
- Talk your way out of a paper bag
- Talk until your blue in the face
- You're a fine one to talk
- Shooting the breeze

THE SPANISH CONNECTION

- conversation / conversación
- discussion / discusión
- to discuss / discutir
- dialogue / diálogo
- to have a dialogue / dialogar
- comment / comentario
- to comment / comentar
- to mention / mencionar
- to verbalize / verbalizar
- to converse / conversar
- to communicate / comunicar
- communication / comunicación
- pronounce / pronunciar
- to debate / debatir
- debate / debate
- enunciate / enunciar
- pronounce / pronunciar
- declare / declarar



Talk



Word Reminders™

1
Words
You Already
Know

Sometimes, a new word has a meaning close to that of a word you already know.

2
Words
You Can Picture

Sometimes, a picture can help you remember a word's meaning.

3
Word
Meaning Family

Often, the meaning of words are connected to the meanings of other words.

4
Word Part
Family

Many words belong to families of words that have the same root words and meanings. Some root words are the same in English and Spanish.

5
Word
Changes

Sometimes, the same word has several different meanings. Often, the meaning of a word changes when it is in a phrase or compound word.

6
Word
Summary

Words are part of families or networks. When you learn the members of a word's family, your vocabulary grows



TextProject

Go

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.

TextProject Topics

- Common Core State Standards
- Beginning Reading
- Morphological Awareness
- Content & Story Words
- Silent Reading & Reading Stamina
- Reading Automaticity & Fluency
- Summer Reading

Upcoming Events

Apr 29, 2012
Institute 18: Reading Research Institute 2012: Research that Makes a Difference in the Age of Common Core Standards

Apr 29, 2012
Institute 03: Promoting Vocabulary Development from Pre-K to Grade 12:

7 Actions that Teachers Can Take Right Now: Text Complexity

A separate standard for text complexity in The Common Core State Standards' (CCSS) means that this feature of reading development is at the center of many conversations among educators. How this standard translates into classroom instruction is less clear. Even with current texts, teachers can take some important actions to support their students on the staircase of text complexity—right now!

 Also available as a printable PDF

TEtT Products

TextProject creates reading programs based on our **TEtT model of text complexity**.



Among the leading classroom reading programs based on TEtT are **QuickReads** and **ZipZoom**.



SummerReads is TextProject's free summer reading program, based on the TEtT model, that helps at-risk readers avoid the summer slump.

Beginning Reads For Fall 2011, TextProject launches our new **BeginningReads** program to support bringing children into reading by connecting their oral language knowledge with written words.

Talking Points for Kids is a prototype program that aims to increase meaningful discussion with students.

Teacher Support

TextProject helps teachers who want to improve their students' reading achievement.



Reading activities promote fluency and

vocabulary, including **E4: Exceptional Expressions for Everyday Events** (still free but newly revised, updated and polished) and **QuickReads Word Pictures**.

Professional development, including a series of upcoming **webinars**, provides teachers background on the elements of reading success.

Benchmark Texts: Stepping Up Complexity is a set of contemporary benchmark books that complements those already identified by Jeanne Chall and the CCSS.

Word lists, such as the popular **WordZones™ for 5,586 Most Frequent Words**, focus on the

Research

TextProject's new Reading Research Report series documents innovations in reading education.



The latest **report** looks at the

measurement of text complexity under the guidelines of the CCSS.

The **TextProject Library** contains a decade's worth of research articles, presentation slides and more from founder Elfrieda H. Hiebert and her colleagues. Including the most recent addition, presentation slides on **7 Actions Teachers Can Take to Increase Students' Capacity with Complex Text**.

Elfrieda H. Hiebert
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