

Vocabulary Matters: 5 Facts, Actions and Resources

Word Fact	Word Action	Open-Access Resource
1. Texts have more rare words than talk and English has more words than can be taught.	1. Teach students to expect new words in texts.	1. <u>Talking Points for Teachers: New Words in New Texts</u>
2. Small group of words does heavy lifting in text.	2. Expose students to many topics & increase reading volume.	2. <u>FYI for Kids</u> , <u>Talking Points for Kids, SummerReads</u>
3. Words are part of networks—synonym sets in narratives and topically related words in informational texts	3. Teach networks of similar-meaning words (stories) and networks of concepts in topics (informational texts).	3. • <u>Synonym Clusters in Narratives: Super Synonym Sets for Stories (S⁴) & Exceptional Expressions for Everyday Events (E⁴)</u> • <u>Topical Clusters in Informational Texts: Word Pictures--Core Vocabulary & Content Areas</u>
4. Words are part of families.	4. Teach words in families.	4. <u>S⁴</u> & <u>E⁴</u>
5. Concrete words are learned faster than abstract ones.	5. When appropriate, teach new concepts with pictures.	5. <u>Word Pictures--Core Vocabulary, Literature Words, Content Areas</u>