ACTIVELY ENGAGING STUDENTS IN MAKING MEANING THROUGH THE USE OF TEXT TALKS

Source: Bring Words to Life by Beck, McKeown, Kucan

Goals for Text Talk
To develop vocabulary and enhance comprehension through open ended questions
that require students to think and talk about ideas and to make connections
Before, During and After Reading

Before: The teacher consciously uses the targeted vocabulary in the text

introduction as an informal way to prepare children.

 $\textbf{\textit{During}} \colon$ The teacher provides a brief explanation of any of the words that may

be new or unfamiliar to the students.

After: The teacher chooses vocabulary words for explicit instruction

Identifying Tier Two Word

Importance of Utility: Which words are used by mature adults and can be

used across a number of domains

Instructional Potential: Which words can be used in a variety of ways

Conceptual Understanding:

Which words do the children have a general concept of and can be explained in child-friendly terms?

The Instructional Sequence For Text Talk

- 1. **Contextualize the word** from the story (i.e. "*I'm gonna make a masterpiece."*)
- 2. The students say the words together to reinforce the phonological processor.
- 3. Give student friendly definition (i.e. masterpiece describes) (see http://nhd.heinle.com for helpful definitions)
- 4. **Use the word in other contexts** than the one use in the story. (i.e. Mother's cake was so beautiful it was a masterpiece.
- 5. Engage the student in using the word in other contexts. (i.e. Tell something you think is a masterpiece and explain why.
- 6. Relate all three words together:
 - Use the targeted words in *one* sentence. (i.e. I felt *miserable* and *dreaded* telling mother her dress that was a perfect *masterpiece* was burned in the fire.
 - One context for all words:
 - a. The painting was a masterpiece.
 - b. Why might you dread telling someone that it had been ruined?
 - c. Show me what you would look like if you felt miserable about what had happened to the masterpiece.

Strategies for Engaging Student in Extended Contexts Bringing Words to Life (p.44-46)		
Strategy	Steps	
Word Association	After presenting the word (i.e. accomplice, philanthropist, novice) ask them to make association. • Which word goes with crook?	
	Which word goes with gift to build a new hospital	
	 Which word goes with kindergartener? 	
	Note: Have students explain their thinking.	
Have You Ever	The student associated newly learned words within contexts and activities from their own experiences. • Describe a time when	
	you were miserableyou dreaded doing somethingyou made a masterpiece	
Applause, Applause!	Students are asked to clap to indicate how much they would like to be described as the target word: (i.e. vain, stern, impish) No clap for not at all, one clap for a little bit and two claps for a lot.	
Questions, Reasons, and Examples	If you were walking around in the dark, you would need to do it <i>cautiously</i> . Why? What are some other things you would need to do cautiously? Which of these things might be extraordinary? Why or why not? • A shirt that was comfortable or a shirt that	
	 washed itself A flower that kept blooming all year or a flower that bloomed in three day A person who has a library card or a person who had read all the books in the library 	
Questioning Connections	Ask: When might you? How might you? Why might you?	
Making Choices	If anything I say might be examples for clutching something say clutching: • Holding tight to a purse • Holding a fistful of monty	