



Contextual Reading

Reading comprehension and analysis through performance

Suggested Time: 15 minutes

Student Tasks:

- Read the provided text
- Review the word list
- Brainstorm ideas
- Discuss using Contextual Reading guidelines

Online ThinkCERCA Resources

- Reading selection

Rationale/Research Base

Contextual Reading is a valuable vocabulary strategy that involves using new words within the context of a passage, sentence, or text.

Optimal Application Notes:

Choose a text or excerpt that aligns with the theme or concept you want to explore. The excerpt should be an appropriate length for the students.

Before:

- Provide students with copies of the text.
- Choose a set of key vocabulary from the text and review with students.

During:

- Begin with time for students to brainstorm how the list of words or phrases play a role in the provided text.
- Ask students to begin with any word from the list.
- The goal is to discuss the words or phrases within the text and how they play a role in the larger context of the excerpt or text as a whole.
- Students should address words one by one, but they can also group several together to begin to expand the discussion.
- Encourage participants to expand and question one another's responses and connections.

After:

- Reflect on how the newly learned vocabulary words are used in different contexts. Consider how these words might be applicable in your own speaking and writing.
- Encourage students to use vocabulary words and some of the larger ideas discussed in their writing pieces.
- Continue to practice using words to reinforce retention and application.

Scaffolds & Supports:

- Provide suggestions to students who might be stuck.
 - Pay attention to the sentences and paragraphs surrounding the word. Look for clues such as repetition. Think about how the word(s) fit with the larger theme or message of the text.
- Consider limiting the list for some students.
- Consider providing some students with sentence starters or thematic categories to help spark ideas.

Contextual Reading

Instructions: Enhance your vocabulary comprehension and retention by analyzing how specific vocabulary words contribute to the overall meaning of a given text.

Review and Brainstorm:

- Review the vocabulary, definitions, and parts of speech. Be sure you know how to use the words in context.
- Recall and brainstorm how each word was used in the text and at what point. Consider its meaning, how it contributes to the overall message or theme of the text and any nuances or connotations associated with its usage.

Guidelines for Contextual Reading:

- Explain Role in Text: Describe the role that each vocabulary word plays in conveying the author's message or purpose or advancing the plot, argument, or theme of the text. Consider whether the word adds clarity, emphasis, contrast, or any other specific function. This might be completed for each word or for a group of words.
- Provide Examples: Offer specific examples or quotations from the text to support your analysis of each vocabulary word's role. These examples should demonstrate how the word is used in context and illustrate its significance within the passage.
- Synthesize Findings: Synthesize your observations for each vocabulary word to develop a comprehensive understanding of how they collectively contribute to the overall meaning and impact of the text.
- Share Ideas: Expand and question one another's responses and connections.

Contextual Reading

3rd – 5th

Instructions: Get better at understanding words by looking at how they help tell a story or give us information.

Review and Brainstorm:

- Think about the new words you've learned, what they mean, and what type of word they are (like a noun, verb, or adjective).
- Remember how each word was used in the text, and think about why it was important. Think about what each word means and how it helps with a big idea in the text.

Guidelines for Contextual Reading:

- **Explain Role in Text:** Describe the role that each vocabulary word plays in showing the author's message or purpose or advancing the plot, argument, or theme of the text. Think about why the word is important. Does it help us understand better, make something stand out, or show how things are different? You can do this for each word or a bunch of words together.
- **Provide Examples:** Offer specific examples or quotations from the text to support your explanation of each vocabulary word's role. These examples should show how the word is used in the text and show its significance.
- **Synthesize Findings:** Put together your observations for each vocabulary word to develop an understanding of how they all add to the overall meaning and impact of the text.
- **Share Ideas:** Review and question one another's ideas and connections.