



Storytelling with Vocabulary

Building word knowledge and conceptual understanding using key vocabulary

Suggested Time: 25 minutes

Student Tasks:

- Review Vocabulary List
- Brainstorm storyline ideas
- Write a short story using key vocabulary words

Online ThinkCERCA Resources

- Vocabulary

Rationale/Research Base

Using storytelling as a vocabulary strategy in the classroom can be highly effective in providing a meaningful context for vocabulary words. Creating stories with new vocabulary words can create memorable experiences and contexts, which can help with retention.

Optimal Application Notes:

Choose a list of vocabulary words that are meaningful or relevant to the unit or objective. Words can be abstract or concrete.

Before:

- Identify the specific vocabulary words or terms you want students to learn. These words should align with the curriculum and the learning objectives for the lesson or unit.

During:

- Give students dedicated time to brainstorm a possible storyline independently or in small groups.
- Ask students to write a narrative that incorporates the target vocabulary words naturally. Create characters, settings, and events that provide a context for the vocabulary.
- Circulate to ensure proper usage in context. Reteach words if necessary.

After:

- Facilitate a class discussion where students can share their stories.
- Allow students time to reflect on the different contexts in which words were used to encourage retention.

Scaffolds & Supports:

- While circulating, offer support and guidance as needed, addressing any questions or misconceptions.
- Consider limiting some students' vocabulary lists based on readiness.
- Consider providing students a framework for a storyline where students only fill in details using the words.

Storytelling with Vocabulary

Instructions: Enhance vocabulary comprehension and retention through the creation and sharing of stories.

Review and Brainstorm:

- Review the vocabulary, definitions, and parts of speech. Be sure you know how to use the words in context.
- Brainstorm different scenarios, settings, and characters where you can incorporate the vocabulary words. Consider how each word can contribute to the plot or theme of your story.

Guidelines for Storytelling with Vocabulary:

- Outline Story Ideas: Outline the key elements of your story, including the characters, setting, plot, and conflict. Decide where and how you will integrate each vocabulary word into your narrative.
- Write Your Story: Start writing your story, incorporating vocabulary words naturally into the dialogue, narration, or description. Be creative and imaginative in your storytelling, and strive to engage your audience.
- Review and Revise: After you've written your story, take time to review and revise it. Check for spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors, and make any necessary adjustments to improve clarity and coherence.
- Reflect on Your Learning: Take a moment to reflect on the experience of using storytelling as a strategy for learning vocabulary. Think about how it helped you deepen your understanding of the words and how you can continue to use this strategy in the future.

Extension Activity (Optional):

- Consider exploring other storytelling formats, such as creating comic strips, graphic novels, or audio recordings, to further engage with the vocabulary words and expand your storytelling skills.

Storytelling with Vocabulary

3rd – 5th

Instructions: Use your vocabulary in a new way by writing and sharing creative stories.

Review and Brainstorm:

- Review the vocabulary, definitions, and parts of speech. Make sure you understand the meaning of each word.
- Brainstorm different plots, settings, and characters where you can include the vocabulary words. Think about how each word can add to the plot or theme of your story.

Guidelines for Storytelling with Vocabulary:

- Outline Story Ideas: Outline the main parts of your story, including the characters, setting, plot, and conflict. Decide where and how you will use each vocabulary word in your narrative.
- Write Your Story: Start writing your story, making sure to include the vocabulary words naturally in the dialogue, narration, or description. Use your creativity and imagination in your story, and try to make your story interesting.
- Review and Revise: After you've written your story, take time to see how you can improve it. Check for spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors, and make any necessary changes to improve your story.
- Reflect on Your Learning: Take a moment to reflect on storytelling as a strategy for learning vocabulary. Think about how it helped you understand the words and how you can continue to use this strategy in the future.

Extension Activity (Optional):

- Consider trying other storytelling activities, such as creating comic strips, graphic novels, or audio recordings, to give yourself more chances to use vocabulary words and expand your storytelling skills.