There, Their, They're…

The importance of vocabulary!
Lynnsey Sheely

Why Vocabulary?

At the beginning of the year, I looked at my MAP data to see what my students lowest goal area was. Between the four areas of Vocabulary Acquisition and Use, Conventions of Standard English and Composition, Reading Foundational Skills, and Literature and Informational Text, my students mean RIT was the lowest in Vocabulary Acquisition and Use. They scored a Mean RIT of 170. This mean was four points lower than my next lowest area. This data helped make my decision to focus on Vocabulary for my LAP.

Vocab Word of the Day…

I would choose a vocabulary word of the that was found in our whole group read aloud each day. This word would become our "Word of the Day". To introduce that word I would do the following: Example: replenished

1. "In the read aloud you heard: "This supply of oxygen is replenished, or replaced, as oxygen passes through the shell of the egg."
2. "Say the word replenished with me"
3. "The word replenished means to replace, restore, or refill"
4. "The refrigerator was almost empty and the groceries needed to be replenished"
5. "Can you think of items that need to be replenished? Try to use the word replenish when you tell me about it"
6. "What's the word that we have been talking about?"
7. Then I read different phrases and students either say "That can be replenished" or "That cannot be replenished"

Frayer Model with our Vocab Word of the Day...

After the introduction of the word, students would be asked to complete a Frayer Model to reinforce the word during independent work. In one box, students would write the definition in their own words, in another they would write a sentence using the word, then they would write what the word is not, then they would draw a picture to represent the word.

Your turn: Vocabulary

Define it in your own words.	Write a sentence with your word.
what something is worth	I value my family

Value

What is is NOT. something free	Draw a picture of your word.

Online student examples

Your turn: Vocabulary

Define it in your own words.	Write a sentence with your word.
to tear up stuff	The kid is destructive

Destructive

What is is NOT. being good	re of your word.

What it is...
a Long trip

In a sentence...
my familey went on a voyage

Voyage

What it is NOT...
staying at home

picture...

In-person student examples

What it is...
To keep going even when your tired.

In a sentence...
I had good endurance On my run.

endurance

What it is NOT...
to stop because your tired.

picture...

# Ways to Reinforce the Word of the Day...

It is important to reinforce the vocabulary words so that they become a part of students everyday vocabulary. I reinforced the words in different ways...

1. Vocab Word Wall: In the front of the classroom I had a vocabulary word wall. After we introduce a new word, I would choose a student to stick the word up on the wall. This allowed students to always be able to see the words that we have learned.
2. Marble Jar: Anytime a student was caught using one of our vocabulary words throughout the day by a teacher or another classmate, they would be allowed to take a marble and put it in the jar. Once the jar was full, we had a class party of their choice.

Ways to Reinforce the Word of the Day Continued…

3. Wear the Word: The day before our unit test, we would have a "wear the word" day. Each word was on written on a piece of paper that had a string tied around it. In the morning, students would come into the classroom and be able to choose one of the vocabulary words from the unit. They would put the string around their neck and wear it for the day. They tried to use their word as many times throughout the day as they could. Students would get with a partner and together they would choose to either act out, write a song, or draw about their words. At the end of the day, they would present their word in whatever way they chose to the class.

Students enjoying one of our "Wear the Word" day!
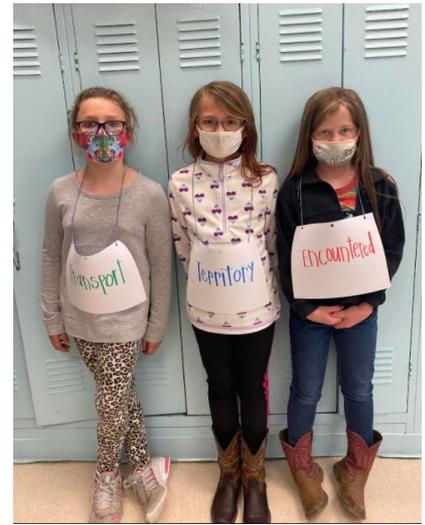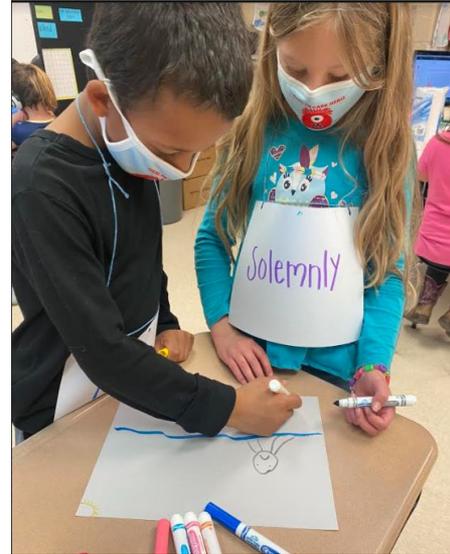
Data...

Unit	Class Average on Pre-Test	Class Average on Post-Test
Unit 1	30.5%	88.5%
Unit 2	45%	93.5%
Unit 3	34%	89.5%
Unit 4	25.5%	94%
Unit 5	38%	86.5%
Unit 6	52.5%	91%
Unit 7	48.5%	95%

MAP test	MEAN RIT on Vocabulary Acquisition and Use
Fall	170
Winter	186