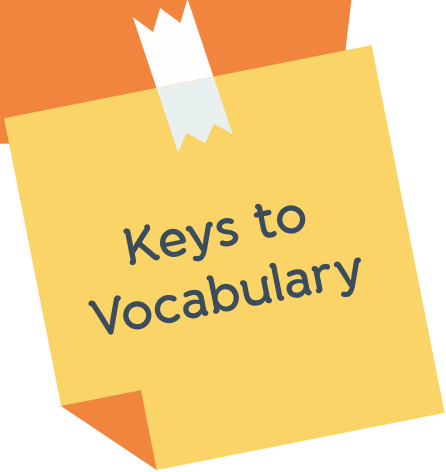




Discover Words

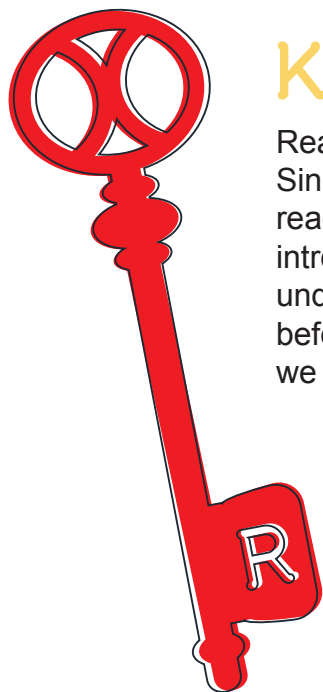


Keys to
Vocabulary

**Ruby
Reader**

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Discover Words



Keys for the Teacher

Reading to young children from a variety of texts introduces new vocabulary. Since beginning readers comprehend at a higher level than they can decode, reading books to children bridges the gap. While reading to students, we can introduce new words and hook them to content. This hook helps children understand, remember and ultimately use new vocabulary. It won't be long before developing readers begin to discover words independently. For now, we are their guides into the world of words.

Keys for the Children

Good readers read every day to look for new words.

Lesson

To introduce this strategy, begin by showing a big dictionary. It is a concrete example of how the world is full of many words. After a quick tour of the book we read several unknown words. This demonstrates how even teachers and parents can learn new words.

Here's a great way to read and explain "zesty" words without disrupting the flow of a story. Once you get in this habit it comes natural. Here's an example:

A line in the book says, "The troll was gigantic." Immediately you say, "Gigantic means the same as big. The troll was big. The troll was gigantic." and then back to the story.

1. Read the word in context.
2. Provide an alternative familiar meaning.
3. Read the sentence with the alternative word.
4. Read the sentence again with the new word.

At the conclusion of the text is another time to ask the children if they remember the "zesty" words in the story. Naming and talking about them again will give students another exposure to the words.

Notes...

1

Create a classroom culture where the discovery of new words is cause for celebration. Ring a bell or sing a song to commemorate each new word. Set a goal to learn 3-5 new “zesty” words per week and graph the results.

2

At times, pre-teaching tricky vocabulary words from a science or social studies text before reading is appropriate. By giving students a “heads-up,” they are prepared to listen for the word. This can provide two opportunities to think about word meaning. Pre-teaching vocabulary to English Language Learners is especially helpful.

3

Reading books to the children with sophisticated vocabulary is an easy way to differentiate instruction.

