



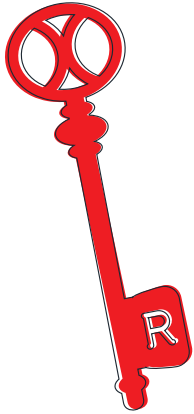
Use “Zesty” Words

Keys to
Vocabulary

**Ruby
Reader**

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Use “Zesty” Words



Keys for the Teacher

As students repeatedly use new words, understanding of meaning deepens. Having a wide vocabulary enables children to read with full comprehension.

Keys for the Children

Good readers try to use interesting words when they talk and write.

Lesson

To begin, explain to the children that learning new words is just plain FUN! Words can be fun to listen to, fun to say, fun to write and fun to understand. Words like: zesty, fascinate, incredible, integrity, and extraordinary. Share that learning new words helps us become better readers and makes our brain smarter all at the same time.

A concrete way to introduce the differences between fancy “zesty” words and everyday high frequency words is by using two types of paper. One paper is a vibrant piece of wrapping paper, the other a plain white sheet. Compare “zesty” words to the colorful paper and high frequency words to the plain paper. Explain that we need plain paper to write on but share that “zesty” paper is fun to look at. We need plain high frequency words to read but “Zesty” words are enjoyable to say, listen to and make sentences sound interesting.

Collect “zesty” words found in read alouds and record them on a large grid in alphabetical boxes. As the collection of “zesty” words builds, repeatedly use them in context in multiple ways. This reinforces word meaning and encourages students to begin to use the words independently. Some examples are:

- *When adding a new word to a class word collector, challenge students to use this word in their journal writing. Give three cheers to any student who accomplishes the task.*
- *Have students talk with a partner about their favorite word from the word collector.*
- *Recite an interesting word from the word collector walking down the hall or waiting in line. Ask the children to create clever sentences using the word.*
- *For handwriting practice, let students pick a word from the word collector. Design a sentence together for students to write using their best handwriting.*
- *Print labels that say “Ask me about the word ____.” Fill in the blank with a word from the class word collector. Let students wear a label home. Explaining a word to someone else encourages higher-level thinking.*

