CLOSING THE [VOCABULARY] GAP ALEX QUIGLEY



Select

- How difficult is this reading material to understand?
- What words are most important to understand the text or topic?
- What words are unlikely to be part of a child's prior knowledge?
- What words lack helpful, directive contexts?
- What words appear repeatedly in a text and a topic?
- What words are interrelated and help children know additional words?
- What words are frequently encountered in many subject disciplines ['Tier 2' words]?

Explain

- 1. Say the word carefully (remember the importance of 'phonemic awareness'?).
- **2. Write the word** (this offers opportunities to reference common sounds or letters in the word).
- **3. Give a student friendly definition** *e.g. obtuse not very sensitive or slow to understand.*
- **4. Give multiple meaningful examples** *e.g. the prince was being deliberately obtuse.*
- 5. Ask for student examples and clarify multiple meanings or any misconceptions.

Explore

- Explore the etymology and common word parts to explore meaning.
- Explore any common word families, interesting synonyms or antonyms for the word/s.
- Explore how the word may be used differently in different disciplines.
- Explore multiple-choice questions that offer examples of the word in use.
- Explore understanding of the word with peers in 'think-pair-share' fashion.
- Explore understanding with children restating the meaning of the word/s in their own words.
- Explore further questions prompted by the word.
- Explore more examples of the word in use.
- Explore related images or ideas evoked by the word.
- Explore strategies to remember the word or concept e.g. mnemonics.

Consolidate

- Test and learn.
- Using the world in the world.
- Research and record.

MIND THE GAP