

UNLOCKING LITERACY

THE VOCABULARY JOURNEY

Moving Words from Hearing to Ownership

KEY IDEA

Students do not learn vocabulary by hearing a definition once.

They learn vocabulary by repeatedly hearing, saying, reading, and writing words in meaningful contexts until those words become their own.

The Vocabulary Journey

 **HEAR IT** →  **SAY IT** →  **READ IT** →  **WRITE IT** →  **OWN IT**

Stage	Purpose	Teacher Actions	Participant Notes	Ideas
 Listening	Understand meaning	Use visuals, stories, demonstrations, real objects	_____	
 Speaking	Use orally	Questions, partner talk, sentence frames	_____	
 Reading	Recognize in print	Highlight in authentic text	_____	
 Writing	Use independently	Sentences, journals, summaries	_____	

Live Demonstration

Target Word: _____

Hear It

How will students first experience the word?

Say It

Questions or sentence frames:

Read It

Where will students encounter it in print?

 Write It

How will students apply it in writing?

Brain Science Behind the Strategy

Each meaningful encounter strengthens neural connections. The more students hear, say, read, and write a word, the more likely it is to move from short-term memory into long-term memory.

Monday Morning Ready

Vocabulary Word: _____

Class/Level: _____

My first step next week:

Vocabulary instruction is not teaching definitions—it is designing experiences.