

# Digging to the Core: Respectful Tasks and Texts for Secondary English Learners

A Connecticut State Department of Education and  
RESC Alliance Initiative



# Learning Goals

## Content Goals

- Increase capacity to meet the needs of secondary ELs through designing respectful tasks and selecting respectful texts
- Understand how second language acquisition impacts student performance

## Language Goals

- Determine the differences in meaning in hard and complex
- Write a set of criteria for providing access to ELs to complex tasks and texts.

# Norms

- Promote a balance of inquiry and advocacy
- Stay focused
- Engage fully
- Participate to learn and grow
- Presume positive intentions

# What does Effective Pedagogy Look Like?



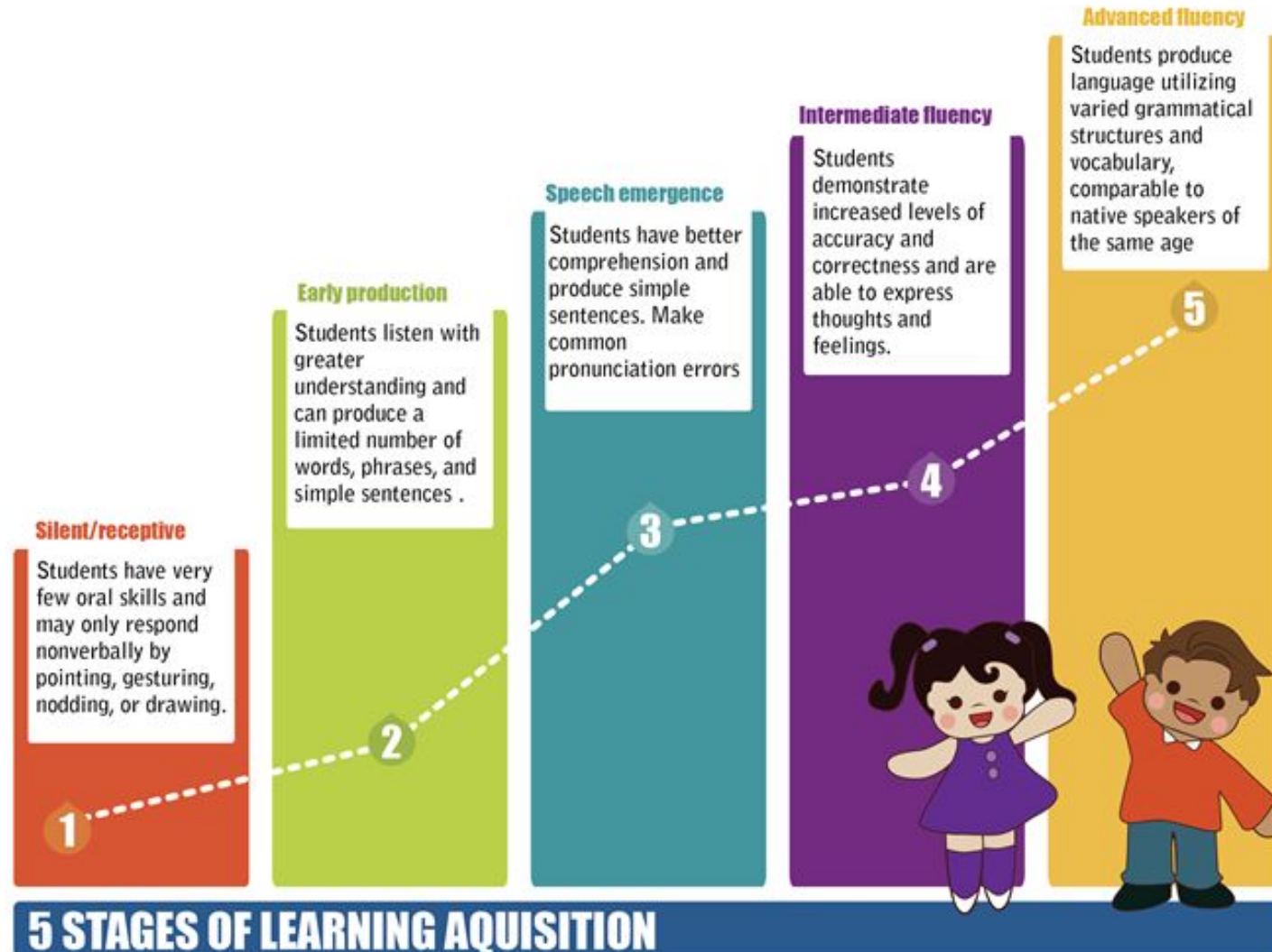
**Turn and Talk:** What strategies did you note? What key elements of the lesson design benefitted ELs?

# What does 'Effective Pedagogy' for ELs mean?

- Read [Effective Pedagogy](#)
- How can we using the language of the principles to reframe our thinking about the video?
  - What's present?
  - What's missing?

# Stages of Second Language Acquisition

Handout



Research proves that it takes between **5-7 years** to be proficient in a second language.

*What might be some of the implications of that research for your EL students?*



# Measuring Language with the LAS Links Assessment

## Student Proficiency Report

Test Date: 01/05/15

Skill Area	Scale Score	1 Beginning	2 Early Intermediate	3 Intermediate	4 Proficient	5 Above Proficient
Speaking	532	365-450	451-475	477-513	514-559	560-645
Listening	601	360-466	467-497	498-534	535-589	590-680
Reading	545	380-501	502-531	532-560	561-607	608-690
Writing	563	300-447	448-498	499-547	548-592	593-710
Overall*	560	351-466	467-500	501-538	539-586	587-681
Comprehension**	573	370-500	501-518	519-552	553-578	579-685
Oral***	566	362-464	465-491	492-524	525-581	582-662
Literacy****	554	340-474	475-514	515-553	554-599	600-700
Productive*****	547	332-448	449-487	488-530	531-575	576-677

# CELP Proficiency Descriptors

## CELP Standard

**Grade level band and ELP Standard number**

**CELP Standard**

ELP Standard		By the end of each English language proficiency level, an ELL can . . .				
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
6-8.1	An ELL can . . .	use a very limited set of strategies to:	use an emerging set of strategies to:	use a developing set of strategies to:	use an increasing range of strategies to:	use a wide range of strategies to:
	construct meaning from oral presentations and literary and informational text through grade-appropriate listening, reading, and viewing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identify a few key words</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identify the main topic in</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• determine the central</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• determine two or more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• determine central ideas</li> </ul>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• explain how the theme is supported by specific details</li> <li>• summarize part of the text.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• explain how the central ideas/themes are supported by specific textual details</li> <li>• summarize a simple text.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• explain how the central ideas/themes are developed by supporting ideas or evidence</li> <li>• summarize a text.</li> </ul>

**Proficiency descriptors at 5 levels of language from lowest (1) to highest (5)**



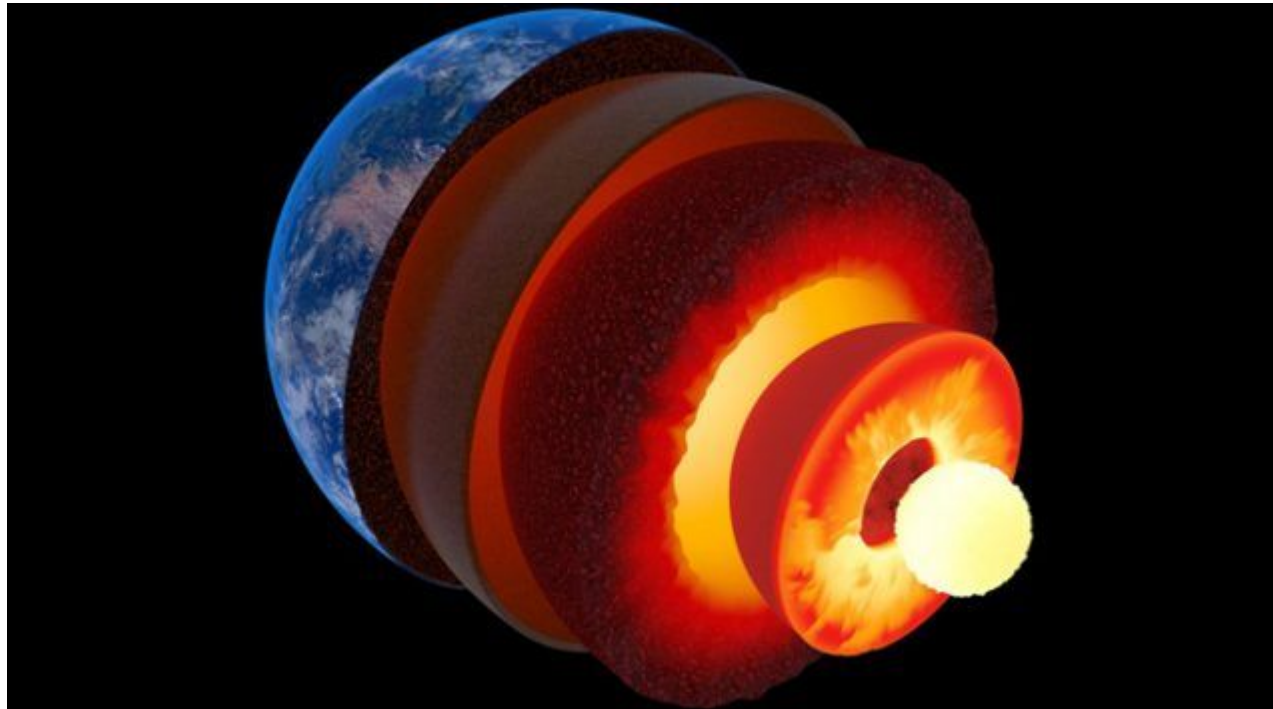
# Pause to Reflect

What are the key pieces of data that are critical to have or collect about English learners when considering how they access to content (i.e., skills, knowledge, and conceptual understanding about the content)?



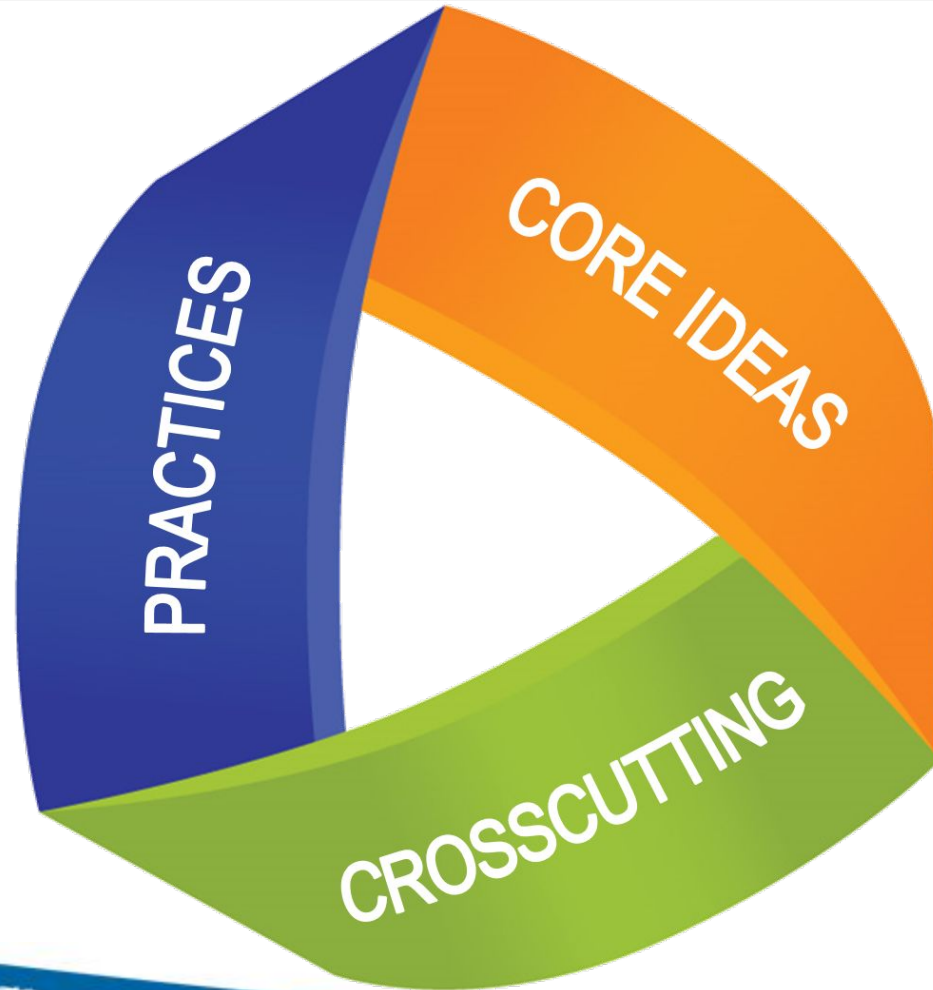
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# Digging into the Core of Skill and Understanding



<https://www.extremetech.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/core-640x353.jpg>

# What's the Bottom Line?



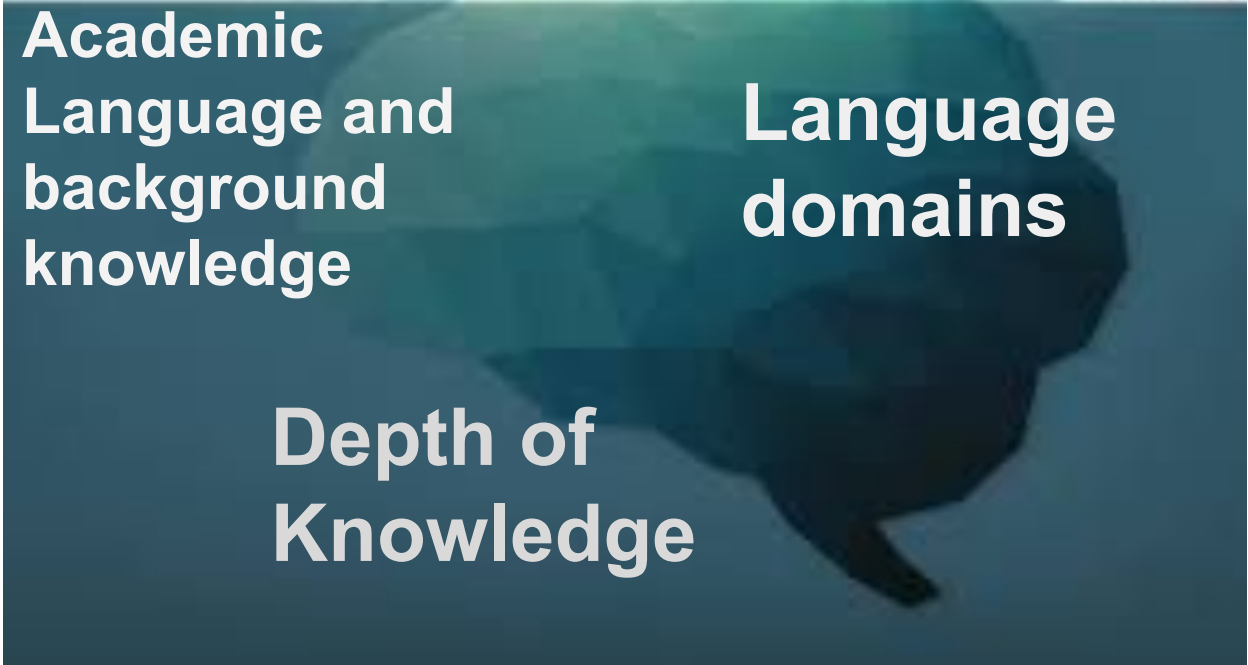
What is it that students are learning that reflect the core ideas, practices, or concepts of the content area?

Based on:

- Content Standards
- Content Practices/ Anchor Standards
- Interdisciplinary ideas
- Language needed to be successful (CELP Standards)

# Respectful Tasks: Intersection of Complexity and Language

## Language Complexity $\neq$ Task Complexity

An iceberg floating in the ocean. The small tip above the water represents 'Language domains', while the much larger submerged part represents 'Academic Language and background knowledge' and 'Depth of Knowledge'.

Academic  
Language and  
background  
knowledge

Language  
domains

Depth of  
Knowledge

# Depth of Knowledge (DOK)

DOK is about the **intended outcome**, not the difficulty

DOK is a reference to the complexity of mental processing that must occur to answer a question, perform a task, or generate a product.

**BOTH LEVEL 1**

$$4 + 4$$

$$4,678,895 + 9,578,885$$



# Scaffolding the Text-Dependent Question

Text Dependent Questions are those that:

- Can only be answered by having read the text
- Are relevant to the meaning of the text
- Do not rely on students' background knowledge or information that is extraneous to the text

Achieve the Core. (2014). Guide to creating text dependent questions. Retrieved from <https://achievethecore.org/category/1158/ela-literacy-text-dependent-questions>



# Multiple Purposes of Text-Dependent Questions

Close Reading	TDQs Focus On	What Students Do
#1	Key ideas and details	Focus on important information that can only be determined through reading the text
#2	Craft and structure	Examine how the text said what it said and how the author organized the information
#3	Integration of knowledge and ideas	Critically evaluate a text and focus on meaning, author's point, comparison of ideas and approach with other texts

Shannahan, T. (2012). Close reading.

# Building Scaffolds

Read Red Cloud's Speech after Wounded Knee

<https://tinyurl.com/RedCloudSpeech>

On the [graphic organizer](#)

1. Determine:
  - *Critical* background knowledge
  - Academic language
  - Figurative language/ colloquial expressions
2. Design Questions for each level of close reading

# Alternate Ways to Demonstrate Skill/Understanding



<https://offices.depaul.edu/teaching-learning-and-assessment/assessment/assessing-learning/PublishingImages/castle-map.png>

Depending the level of proficiency of the ELs, select a new route to the same goal.

- Select alternate language domain (e.g., speaking for writing, etc.)
- Use visual representations
- Provide the language needed (e.g., word banks, models, etc.)

# Designing Better Options

1. Go to <https://tinyurl.com/ELTaskOptions>
2. Make a copy FILE--MAKE A COPY
3. Work with your content group or on your own to create a menu of options for an upcoming task.

*Remember, only offer options you would let **ANY** student access.*

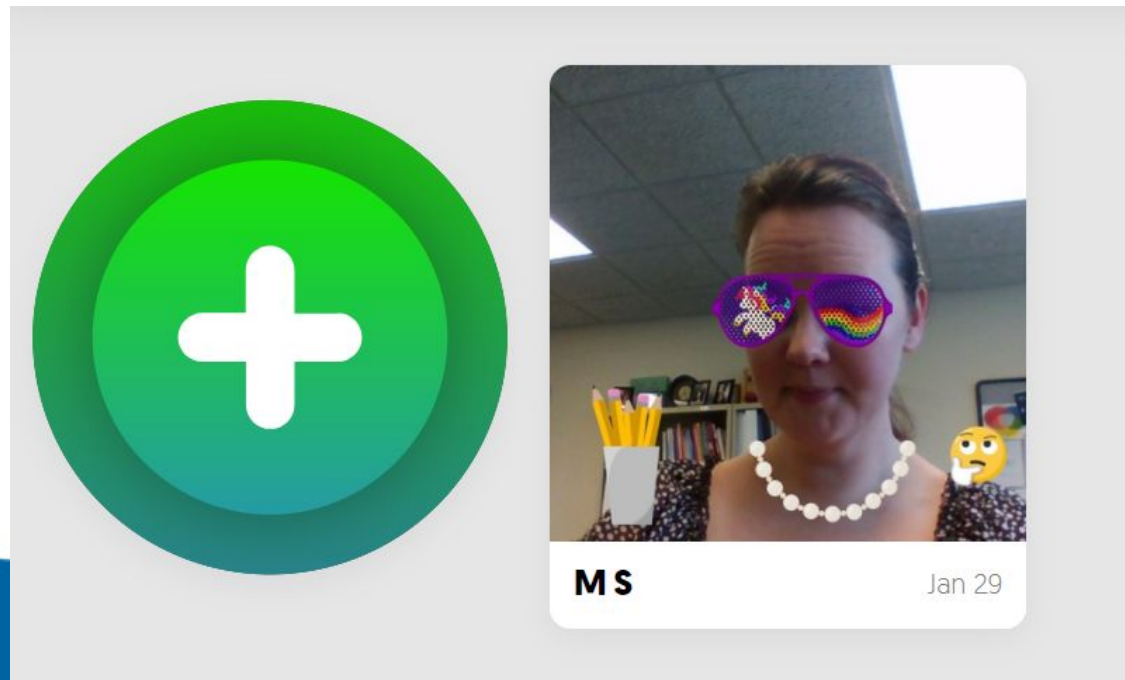


# Digital Tools: Flip Grid

Website Link <https://flipgrid.com/7b2f6c>

Password **ACCESS**

Click on the Green + to respond to the question with a video response.



# Text Complexity

Read the article “*What does Text Complexity Mean?*”



[http://www.corestandards.org/wp-content/plugins/corestandards/assets/text\\_complexity.jpg](http://www.corestandards.org/wp-content/plugins/corestandards/assets/text_complexity.jpg)

## **Text Rendering Activity:**

Partner A will read \_\_\_\_ Partner B will read \_\_\_\_.

- Round 1: Each person shares a significant sentence from the document
- Round 2: Each person shares a significant phrase
- Round 3: Each person shares a significant word

*Group discusses what they heard and what the documents says.*

# Application: Rate Text Complexity

Examine the text you've brought with you (or another sample text)

What makes this text complex for ELs?

What might you design to make this text accessible for ELs?



[http://www.corestandards.org/wp-content/plugins/corestandards/assets/text\\_complexity.jpg](http://www.corestandards.org/wp-content/plugins/corestandards/assets/text_complexity.jpg)

# How do you plan entry into complex texts?



<http://www.traveltradeconsultancy.co.uk/perch/resources/locks.jpg>

- **Determine the purpose of reading**
- Background knowledge and Vocabulary
- Text selection
- Discourse and Interaction



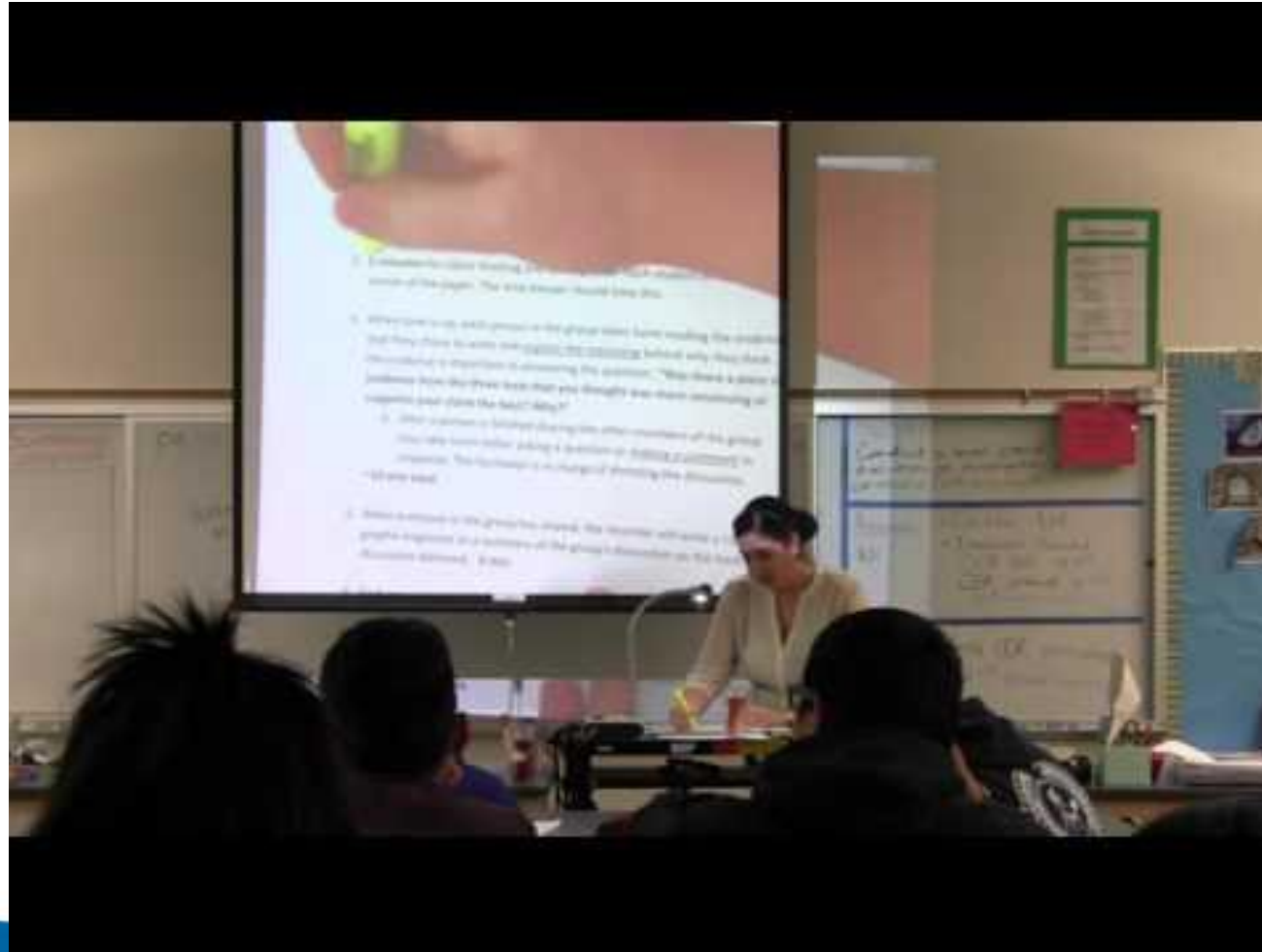
# Background Knowledge

“A person’s background knowledge, often called prior knowledge, is a collection of ‘abstracted residue’ (Schellert, 2002, p.557) that has been formed from all of life’s experiences...we use them to connect or glue new information to old” (Lent, 2012).

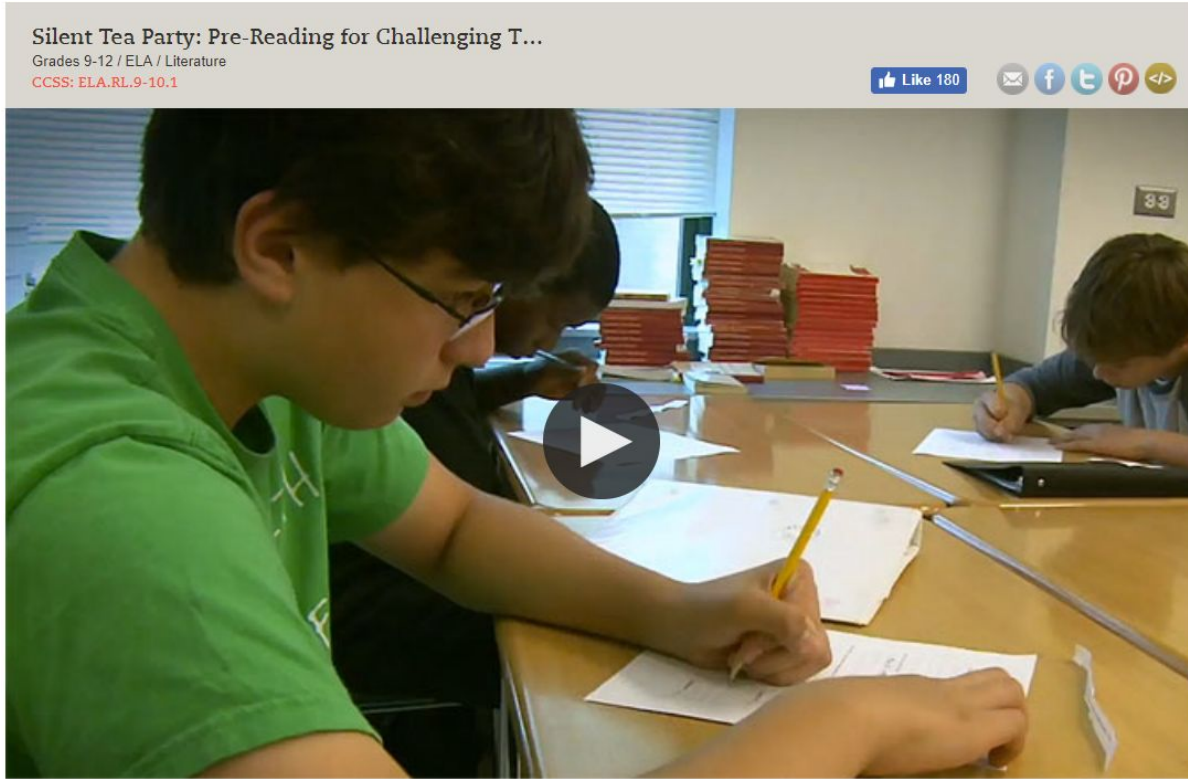




# Discussion Diamond: Build Background and Language Before Writing



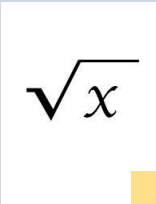


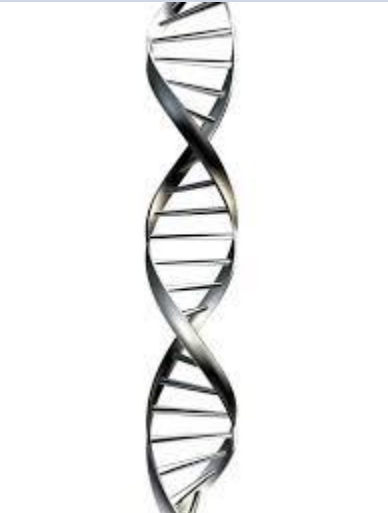


# Silent Tea Party: Previewing the Text



For ELs, the teacher may create scaffolded questions or provide translation tools for quotations for students with growing English language proficiency. By strategically grouping students at the end of the silent tea party, students can clarify misconceptions.

# Tiered Vocabulary

Tier I	Tier II	Tier III
<p>Basic, everyday words that ELs need for academic conversations and explanations.</p> <div data-bbox="165 695 575 962">  </div> <div data-bbox="369 988 476 1159">  </div>	<p>Words with different meaning in different contents and contexts, Bloom's taxonomy verbs, <b>and</b> academic signal words/transitional words</p> <div data-bbox="866 728 1021 929">  </div> <div data-bbox="996 896 1291 1182">  </div> <div data-bbox="1312 826 1551 1182">  </div>	<p>Content specific, low-frequency words.</p> <div data-bbox="1926 671 2311 1182">  </div>

# Build Vocabulary Supports

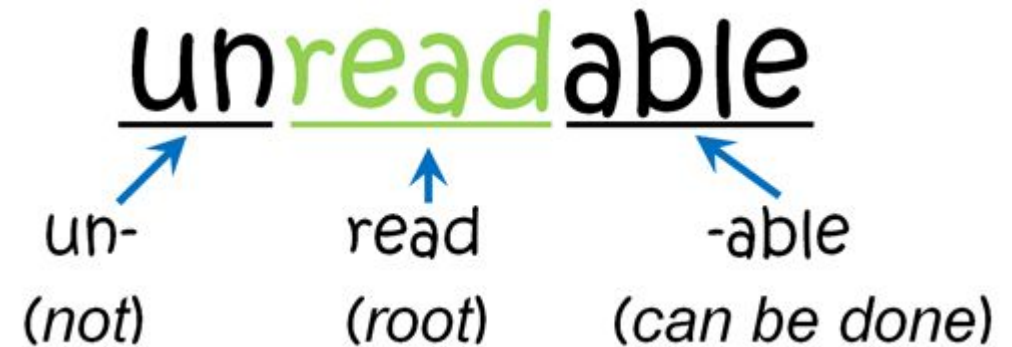
## Option 1

### Word Splash



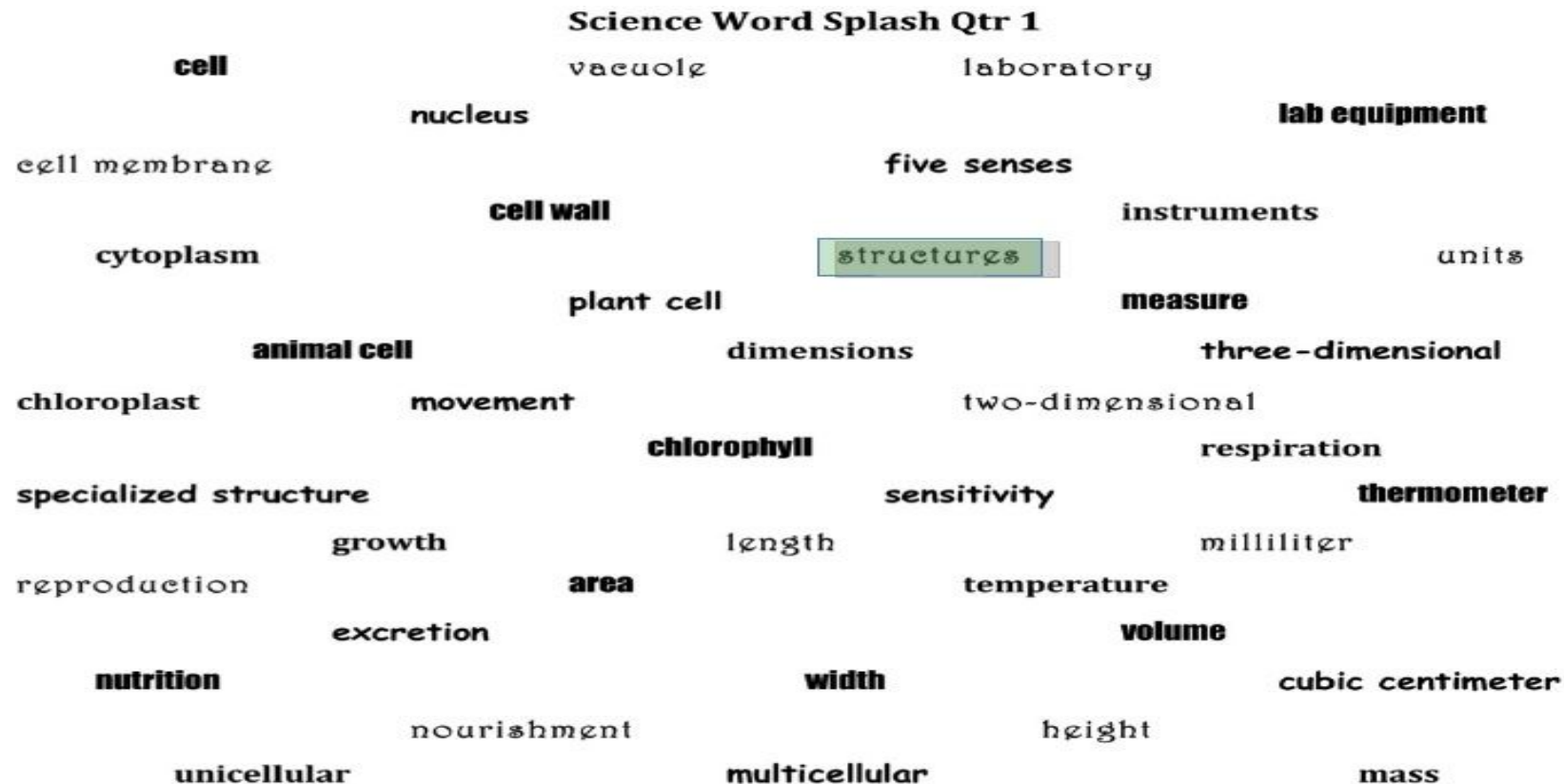
## Option 2

### Word Parts Word Study





# Strategy: Word Splash





# Strategy: Word Study

New Vocabulary Word: RECYCLE

Greek Root: CYCL → CYCLE

Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

**Activity:** Fill in the word web for other words with the CYCLE root.  
Define RECYCLE in your own words. What does CYCLE mean?

Pinnell, G.S. and Fountas, I.C. (1998). *Word Matters: Teaching Phonics and Spelling in the Reading/ Writing Classroom.*



# Text Selection

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## JOHN F. KENNEDY'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS

"We observe today not a victory of party but a celebration of freedom . . . symbolizing an end as well as a beginning . . . signifying renewal as well as change for I have sworn before you and Almighty God the same solemn oath our forbears prescribed nearly a century and three-quarters ago.

The world is very different now, for man holds in his mortal hands the power to abolish all forms of human poverty and all forms of human life. And yet the same revolutionary beliefs for which our forbears fought are still at issue around the globe . . . the belief that the rights of man come not from the generosity of the state but from the hand of God. We dare not forget today that we are the heirs of that first revolution.

Let the word go forth from this time and place . . . to friend and foe alike . . . that the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans . . . born in this century, tempered by war, disciplined by a hard and bitter peace, proud of our ancient heritage . . . and unwilling to witness or permit the slow undoing of those human rights to which this nation has always been committed, and to which we are committed today . . . at home and around the world.

Let every nation know . . . whether it wishes us well or ill . . . that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, to assure the survival and the success of liberty. This much we pledge . . . and more.

To those old allies whose cultural and spiritual origins we share: we pledge the loyalty of faithful friends. United . . . there is little we cannot do in a host of co-operative ventures. Divided . . . there is little we can do . . . for we dare not meet a powerful challenge, at odds, and split

asunder. To those new states whom we welcome to the ranks of the free, we pledge our word that one form of colonial control shall not have passed away merely to be replaced by a far more iron tyranny. We shall not always expect to find them supporting our view. But we shall always hope to find them strongly supporting their own freedom . . . and to remember that . . . in the past . . . those who foolishly sought power by riding the back of the tiger ended up inside. To those people on the huts and villages of half the globe struggling to break the bonds of mass misery, we pledge our best efforts to help them help themselves, for whatever period is required . . . not because the Communists may be doing it, not because we seek their votes, but because it is right. If a free society cannot help the many who are poor, it cannot save the few who are rich.

To our sister republics south of our border, we offer a special pledge . . . to convert our good words into good deeds . . . in a new alliance for progress . . . to assist free men and free governments in casting off the chains of poverty. But this peaceful revolution of hope cannot become the prey of hostile powers. Let all our neighbors know that we shall join with them to oppose aggression or subversion anywhere in the Americas . . . and let every other power know that this hemisphere intends to remain the master of its own house.

To that world assembly of sovereign states the United Nations . . . our last best hope in an age where the instruments of war have far outpaced the instruments of peace, we renew our pledge of support . . . to prevent it from becoming merely a forum for invective . . . to strengthen its shield of the new and the weak . . . and to enlarge the area in which its writ may run.

Finally, to those nations who would make themselves our adversaries, we offer not a pledge but a request: that both sides

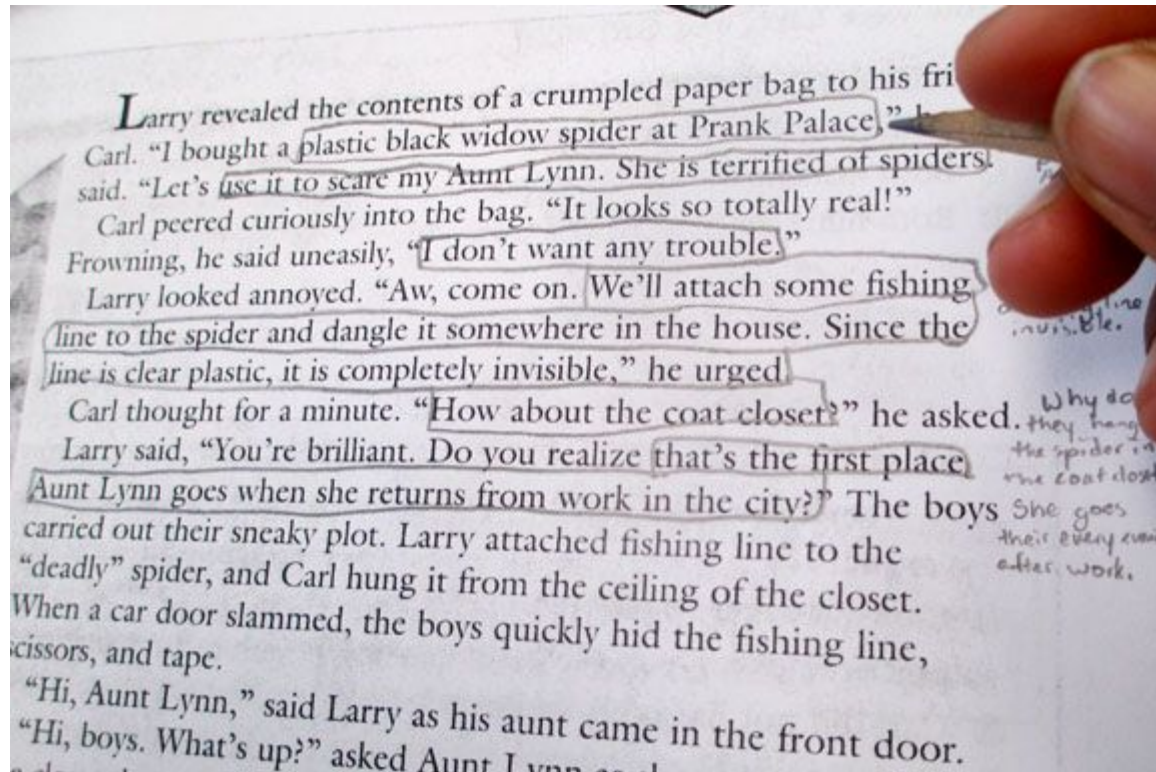
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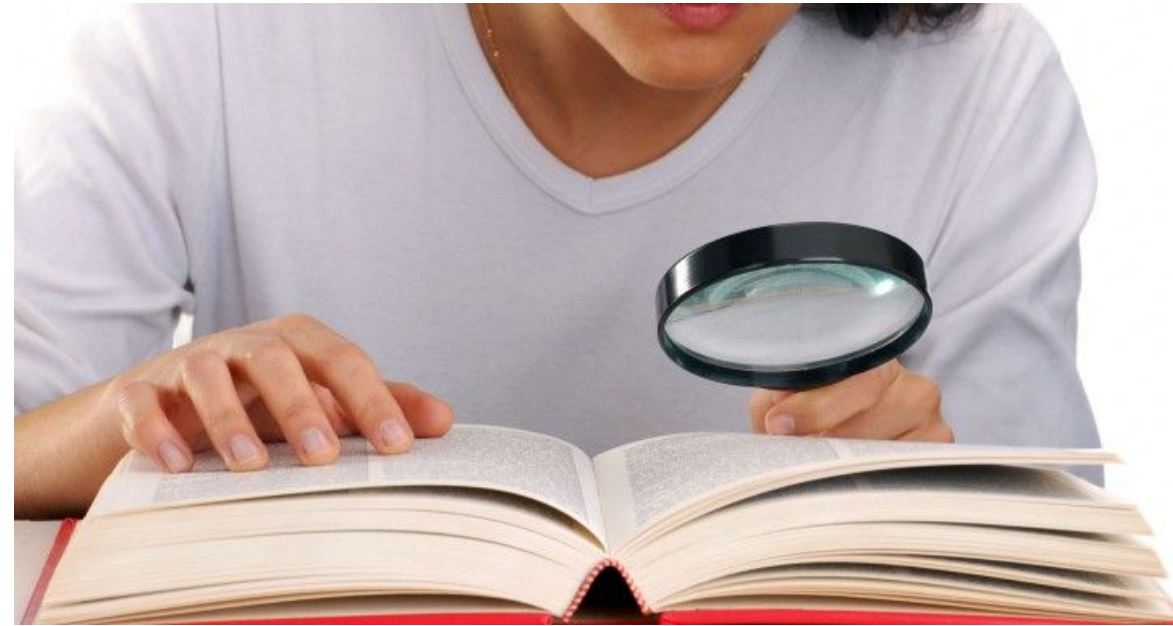
[http://www.west.stokes.k12.nc.us/uploads/8/2/9/9/8299127/book-club-3\\_orig.jpeg](http://www.west.stokes.k12.nc.us/uploads/8/2/9/9/8299127/book-club-3_orig.jpeg)



# Student Discourse Strategy: Multiple Draft Reading



<https://www.scholastic.com/content/dam/teachers/blogs/meghan-everette/migrated-files/elaclose.jpg>

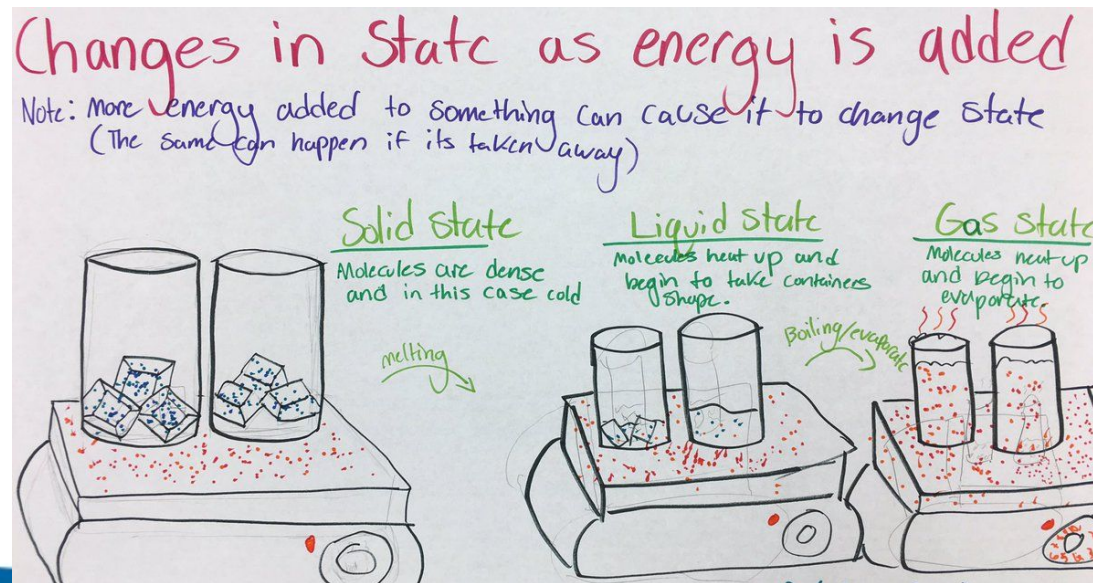


[http://www.institutmacula.com/wp-content/uploads/ayudas\\_visuales\\_lupa-718x384.jpg](http://www.institutmacula.com/wp-content/uploads/ayudas_visuales_lupa-718x384.jpg)



# What's Important about Text for ELs?

- At your table, discuss what are the salient points when planning how to provide access to complex text?
- As a table, create a semi-linguistic representation of text entry points.



<https://pbs.twimg.com/media/Ct3u4QaXEAEWzG1.jpg>

# Strategies: Overview

What are strategies and supports that we can do for ELs in the classroom?

- Watch the video of a teacher supporting her ELs
- Fill-in the note-taking handout

**Video:** [Supporting ELs in ELA](#)





# Framework for Access to Learning Experiences

- ★ Data collection
- ★ Core Ideas
- ★ Goals and Objectives (CELP, CCSS)
  - Content and Language
- ★ Learning strategies that provide access to Tasks/Texts
- ★ Multiple means of expression

**Activity:** Create a checklist under each section above on what are the “Gotta-haves” for accessing learning.

# Access to Participant Folder

<https://tinyurl.com/DiggingFolder>



# Keep it or Junk it

Each group will present their  
Gotta-Have Checklist for the section  
The presenting group will facilitate  
the Keep it or Junk protocol



[https://ds0vt0n1s74d2.cloudfront.net/video\\_photos/1/221/large\\_1380344732.jpg](https://ds0vt0n1s74d2.cloudfront.net/video_photos/1/221/large_1380344732.jpg)

# Please fill out your feedback survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PathwaysSeries>

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[lorfer01@gmail.com](mailto:lorfer01@gmail.com)

