

SMART™ Lesson

Word Guessing Strategies

Learning to read can be a challenging task for young learners. One way to help children develop their reading skills is by teaching them word guessing strategies. These strategies can help children figure out unfamiliar words that they may encounter while reading.

Context Clues

Context clues are words or phrases that surround an unfamiliar word and provide hints about the word's meaning. The context clues can be found in the sentences before or after the unfamiliar word.

For example:

The *gargantuan* elephant blocked the path.

Context clue: The word "gargantuan" suggests that the elephant is very large.

Sound It Out

Children can also use phonics to sound out unfamiliar words. Phonics involves understanding how different letters and letter combinations make different sounds.

For example:

The word "cat" contains the letters c, a, and t. Children can sound out each letter and blend the sounds together to make the word "cat".

Use Picture Cues

Picture cues are illustrations that accompany the text and provide visual clues about the meaning of unfamiliar words. Children can look at the picture and make an educated guess about the meaning of the word.

For example:

A picture of a horse can help a child identify the meaning of the word "equine".

Quiz Time

Now, let's test your knowledge on word guessing strategies!

1. What are context clues?

1. Words or phrases that provide hints to the meaning of an unfamiliar word, found in the sentences around the word.
2. A guessing game played with friends.
3. The opposite of a clue.

2. What is phonics?

1. The study of how different letters and letter combinations make different sounds.
2. A type of bird found in the rainforest.
3. A type of instrument used in a marching band.

3. What are picture cues?

1. Illustrations that accompany text and provide visual clues about the meaning of unfamiliar words.
2. Small messages written in pictures.
3. Signs telling people to be quiet around the library.

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