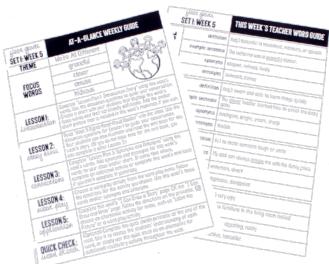
VOCABULARY CURRICULUM

first grade set l



WEEKLY MATERIALS INCLUDE:



At-A-Glance Weekly Guide and Weekly Teacher Word Guide for easy planning and teacher instruction



An original passage and a read-aloud story with detailed teacher language and discussions

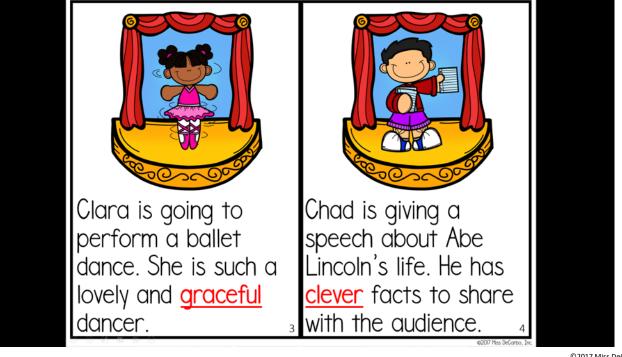


Focus word cards, synonym and antonym word cards, oral discussion cards, anchor chart cards, an optional assessment piece, draw and write application activity, label the photograph printable, digital book, printable book, and MORE!

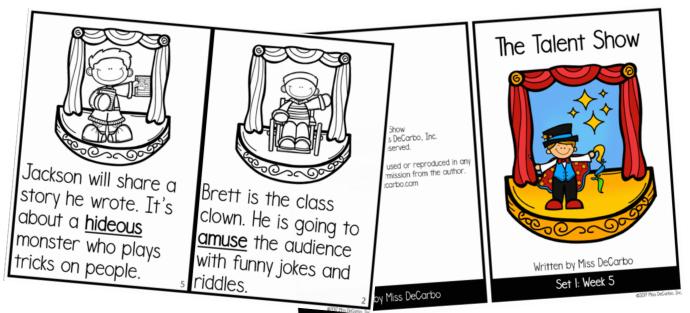
DIGITAL BOOKS FOR PC & MAC with teacher discussion questions



The weekly digital booklet can be projected onto a screen for the entire class to see. It is read by the teacher and includes discussion questions and suggested teaching points. Digital booklets can be opened on any computer that has Microsoft PowerPoint installed.



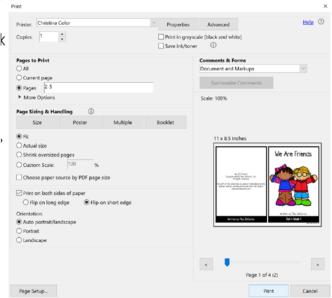
PRINTABLE VERSIONS OF THE READ-**ALOUD BOOKLETS ARE INCLUDED!**



PRINTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR WEEKLY READ-ALOUD BOOKLETS

If you choose not to use the digital read-aloud story for Lesson 2 this week, I have included printable versions for your convenience. A color version and black & white version is included in this file.

- Type in the page numbers you wish to print. If you would like to print the color Print version of the booklet, you will print pages 2-5. If you wish to print the black \$ white version, print pages 6-9.
- 2. Select "Fit" so that the booklet fills as much of the page as possible when it prints. Sometimes, this option may read, "Scale to Fit Paper" on your printing option screen.
- 3. Select "Print on both sides of paper."
- Select "Flip on short edge."
- Print the booklet.
- 6. Fold the printed pages and staple along the left side.



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EACH WEEK FOLLOWS A CONSISTENT ROUTINE

LESSON I:	Create an anchor chart with your students that displays this week's words and definitions.
NI MARCHIO COLLI	Share the introduction story with your students, and complete Lesson I.
LESSON 2:	Read the digital (or printable) booklet for the week, and use the discussion questions to guide your conversation with students.
story time	The students will complete this week's mini book.
LESSON 3: connections	Add this week's synonyms and antonyms to your anchor chart.
CONTROCCENT IN	Complete the synonym and antonym activity.
LESSON 4: word play	Choose an activity from the word play menu.
LESSON 5: application	Students will complete the independent activity "I Can Draw a Story" journal entry or the "I Can Draw and Write" journal entry and apply this week's words to their everyday lives. (The teacher could also choose an activity off of the alternative options list instead.)

MASTER LESSON PLANS FOR **YOUR WEEKLY ROUTINE**

first grade INTRODUCTION

Materials:

pocket chart

- sentence strips
- chart paper
- marker
- word cards introduction story for Lesson I

I have a story that I want to

I'm going to need your help t

Do NOT read the word cards

"blank" whenever there is an e

Ask the students, *Does anyon

know. The exercise also expose

thought of, used, or shared, h

allows them to put these know can think of that make sense

the remaining sentences in the

Now, flip each word card over

screen) and read the week's

exercise helps students draw

first grade

CONNECTIONS

Materials:

doc

stor

- weekly word chart that words and kid-friendly definitions pocket chart

or a small-group setting. You will be adding synonyms and antonyms to your weekly word chart (anchor chart) for the includes the week's focus week, so you will want to have it nearby. A pocket chart is needed if you choose to complete the word sort activity. Cut out (laminate if you wish) this week's synonym and antonym synonym and antonym word cards for the week word cards

This lesson is designed to be straightforward and simple: The teacher will engage in a discussion with the students to share words that mean the same and words that are different from the week's three focus words. You'll notice that for some weeks, the synonym and antonym list is minimal. (This frequently happens if the focus words are nouns rather than adjectives.) Since we

understanding synonyms and building vocabulary. For each focus word, we've now at three words!

intonims for the week with synonyms are words that mean ent)." Use your "Weekly Teacher cus word. Add the new kly word chart (anchor chart)

WORD SORT

us word cards horizontally chart. Hold up a synonym ad it aloud. Have the students ack to you and share anything about the word. Ask, "Does this ne thing as any of the words ket chart this week?" The bu sort each synonym word inder one of the three focus same meaning. Repeat the the antonym word cards. ohs are included in the

activity for this lesson. If you son with any of the extra

will araw (or write) a picture to tell your story. Be very detailed in your picture. That means bw as much as you can in order to tell us what happened in your story. When we are done bur stories, you'll have time to share your story with a friend. Be ready to tell everything happened in your story when you share your picture with your friend.

rentiation Options: You'll notice that at the bottom of each "I Can Draw (and Write) a printable, there are the four focus words for the week. Depending on the time of the your students' ability levels, and your own goals for the lesson, you can encourage the its to label their pictures with the week's focus words. You could also have the students cut nd glue the words onto their story illustrations in order to label them. If your students are cting the writing template, they can use the words at the bottom as a word bank as they and spell.

the students have worked on their printables, have them share their responses with a or or group of friends. Encourage students to use complete sentences when they share, kample, we do not want students to say, "I drew a picture of ____." We want to rage the students to be oral storytellers and use complete sentences to tell the sequence

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LESSON PLAN 1: INTRODUCTION STORY

Set Up: Write the week's introduction story on sentence strips, place them in a pocket chart for the whole group to see. You a also write it largely on an anchor chart. Draw a "blank" (__ sentence strips, just as it is shown on the story printable. Place word cards in a row above or below the pocket chart story. Flip cards over so that students cannot see them yet. Mix up the or the word cards. If you would prefer not to use a pocket charanchor chart, place the introduction story printable under a

first grade STORY TIME

LESSON PLAN 3: SYNONYMS & ANTONYMS

Set Up: This lesson can be completed in a whole-group setting

- digital booklet for this week OR a printable copy (color or black and white)

LESSON PLAN 2: WHOLE-GROUP READ-ALOUD AND PRINTABLE MINI BOOK

Set Up: Story time can take place in a whole-group or a smallgroup setting. I prefer to complete this lesson in a whole group setting, so that the entire class can hear and participate in the same discussion about the story and our weekly words.

If you are using the digital booklet, open up the file for the week you are on. The digital booklets are found in the zip folder of this resource You can open the digital booklets on any computer that

PowerPoint installed. When you open the file, the itomatically open up and be ready for use. If you are igital booklet, both color and black and white *printable* ach week's booklets are available.

ekly word chart (anchor chart) that you made with the by for reference when needed.

story to share with you today! It is a different story it will help us learn even more about our new words o listen very carefully and very closely because we appens in the book and sharing our thoughts.

ing to review and discuss the vocabulary and what is d. (You may need to reteach what the vocabulary chart you created for the week with your students.) nal teacher discussion questions and page that will

esson is completed independently by the students (with

anchor chart) is available for you and your students to

each student. Decide which template works best for your

ities, time of the school year, and your own goals for

you're using this activity in a small group, you can

which template you provide, according to their needs.

c what you learned about our new words this week to

to see and hear what you share with us in your stories.

at the top of the printable page. Each week's story page

ponder or a prompt that asks them to think about the

activity is a writing response activity. The students are

and connections through illustrations that they create.

ugh their illustrations are developing essential beginning

uential and logical thinking skills, and an understanding of

vords independently and to their own lives. This puts the

own, unique ways. Likewise, if you are using the writing

ice putting their thoughts, ideas, experiences, and the

nakes it meaningful, and allows them to demonstrate

onderful beginning writing activity for young children.

pry" activity is a great way for students to practice

eded. Pass out a copy of the week's "I Can Draw a ble OR a copy of the "I Can Draw and Write a Story

n the teacher). You will want to ensure that your weekly

LESSON PLAN 5: I CAN DRAW

first grade WORDPLAY

Materials:

The materials for this lesson will vary depending on the word play activity you choose to use for the week

LESSON PLAN 4: WORD PLAY ACTIVITY

Set Up: Every week for Lesson 4, you will choose an activity off of the included word play menu.

You can choose to work your way through all three activities and then repeat them, or, complete the same activity for two or three weeks in a row. Use as many of them or as few of them as you would like. The choice is yours! These word play activities are also wonderful to use as additional or supplemental vocabulary activities if you want to mix up your weekly routine or add more activities to it. These word play activities would also make fantastic vocabulary activities that you can complete within a small group in order to challenge your students, differentiate for your students, or provide extra practice.

Boys and girls, today is word play activity day! I'm so excited to have some fun with the new words we've been learning this week.

You will then choose a Word Play Activity from the included word play menu. The word play activity options for Set I include the following activities:

- Word Theater
- Word Chat
- Word Chant

Each word play activity has its own designated instruction/lesson plan page. I have typed out the directions, set-up, and materials you will need for each activity. Read through the activity of your choice, and complete it with your students.

Important: The word play activities are designed to promote creativity and critical thinking. As a result, it's important to include as many synonyms and antonyms as you can within each of the word play activities you complete with your students. Simply teaching our students only the three focus words will limit their vocabulary acquisition. This resource is set up to be as expansive as you make it. The activities and lesson plans can accommodate more than the three focus words and even more than the number of synonym and antonyms I've listed on the :Weekly Teacher Word Guides." Feel free to expose your students to as many synonyms and antonyms as you'd like, and encourage them to use those words during the word play activities. Your students do not need to be able to read or spell the vocabulary words independently. That is not the goal of this resource. The goal is for our students to see, hear, understand, and use as many new Tier 2 words as they can acquire. They will use these words within their everyday lives, apply them to new situations, experiences, and scenarios, and be able to comprehend and apply them as they become more capable, independent readers and writers.

If you have extra time throughout the week, feel free to choose any of the Word Play Activities to add to your daily schedule, revisit, and repeat! Have fun playing with words!

nts that happened in their stories and pictures.

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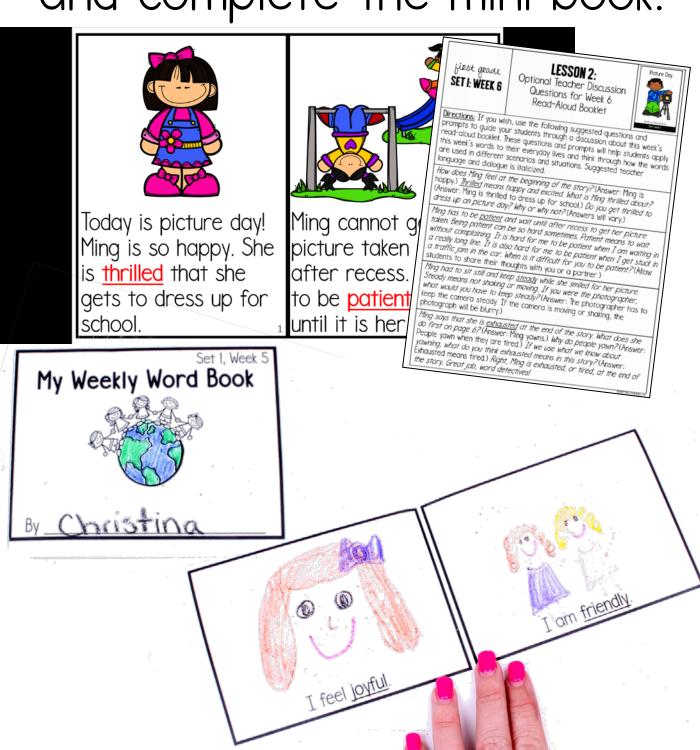
LESSON I: INTRODUCTION

Share the introduction story, and teach the words within context.



LESSON 2: STORY TIME

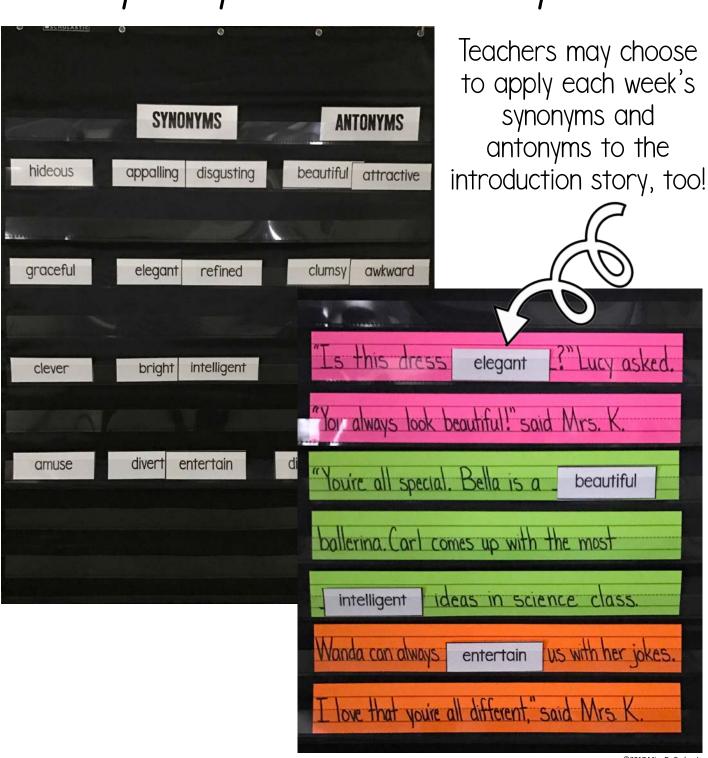
Read the digital booklet aloud, and complete the mini book.



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LESSON 3: CONNECTIONS

Share, discuss, and sort synonyms and antonyms.



LESSON 4: WORD PLAY

Choose a hands-on activity to practice using the week's words.

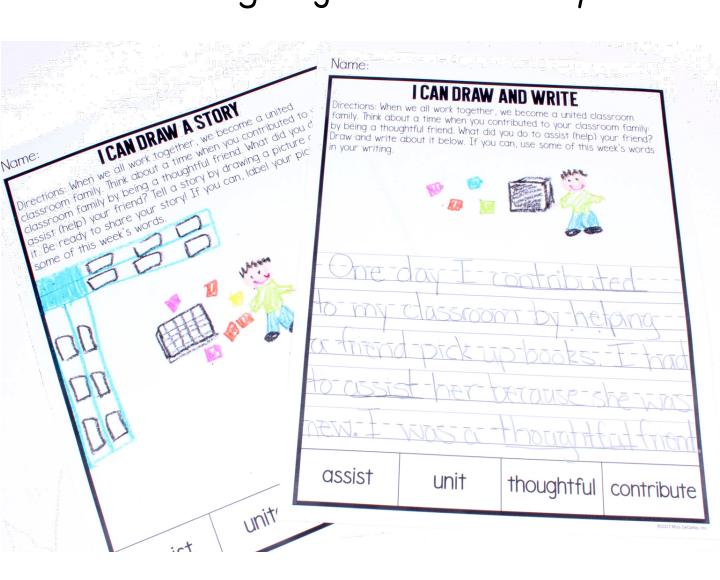
first grade SET I WORD PLAY MENU			
NAME OF ACTIVITY	PAGE		
Word Theater (Dramatic Play Word Play Activity) (Use popsicle stick characters to act out a story using the words.)	47		
Word Chat (Oral Discussion Word Play Activity) (Use the word photograph cards for an oral language discussion activity.)	51		
Word Chant (Practice and learn synonyms and antonyms through a chant.)	53		





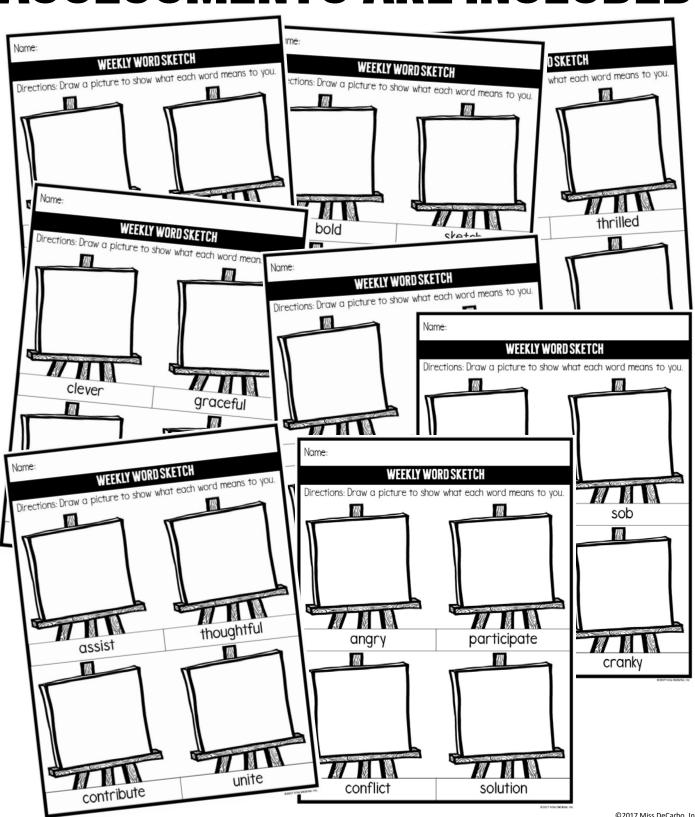
LESSON 5: APPLICATION

The students will apply the words to their lives by drawing and writing a journal entry.



Choose the differentiated templates that work best for your students.

OPTIONAL WORD SKETCH **ASSESSMENTS ARE INCLUDED**



ALTERNATIVE & ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

This resource can be as flexible or as "guided" as you would like! Feel free to mix things up a bit during the week by swapping out a weekly lesson plan for any of the following activities, or use any of the following ideas as additional vocabulary activities to enhance your instruction or routine for the week

Name of Activity	Ideas for Use		
Oral Discussion "Word Chat" Activity	This oral language/class discussion activity encourages critical thinking and fits nicely into Lesson 3 as a follow-up activity, in exchange for the activity in Lesson 4, or as an additional activity to your week.		
"Label the Picture"	This is a great follow-up to the "Word Chat" activity. It can also be easily used as an independent application activity in exchange for the "I Can Draw a Story" printable or the "I Can Draw and Write" printable.		
Vocabulary Notebook	Have students illustrate the vocabulary cards for the week and paste them into personal vocabulary notebooks. Students can write synonyms and antonyms beside each word card in their notebooks.		
Quick Sketch	The quick sketch page was designed to be used as an optional, end-of-the-week assessment. However, this page can also be used as an additional activity for the week or in exchange for one of the lesson plan activities.		

jirst grade SET I: WEEK 5	AT-A-GLANCE	WEEKLY GUIDE		
THEME	We're All Different			
	graceful			
FOCUS	clever			
WORDS	amuse			
	hideous			
LESSON I: introduction	Complete "Lesson Plan I: Introdu words. Use the discussion question Create a chart with your studen focus words and their kid-friend Teacher Word Guide" for assist picture that is included the ve	ons to guide your conversation. ts that display this week's ly definitions. Se your "Weekly		
LESSON 2: story tip	Read "Week" L tal no like discussin questi L to L to like tu tu tu tus can llus the ek sti Life you not ve constitution it after son 3.)	to guid but nini book for this arme for the mini book, you		
LESSON 3: connections	weet words. Add synonyms and words to your class anchor char	or complete this week's mini book		
LESSON 4: word play	Choose a word play activity from the directions for the activity yo words and/or synonyms and anto	u choose. Use this week's focus		
LESSON 5: application	Complete this week's "I Can Dra Draw and Write" page. Follow the choose an alternative activity fo Photograph" or a word play acti	e directions on the printable, <u>OR</u> or today such as "Label the		
QUICK CHECK: Word sketch	(Optional) Complete the quick ski week. Use it to assess the stude word, or simply use the quick cha additional) vocabulary activity th	nts' understanding of each eck as an alternative (or		

first grade SET I: WEEK 5

THIS WEEK'S TEACHER WORD GUIDE

GRACEFUL

definition (adj.) beautiful in movement, manners, or speech

example sentence The ballerina was a <u>graceful</u> dancer.

> elegant, refined, lovely synonyms

awkward, clumsy

gate.

CLEVER

definition (adj.) smart and able to learn things quickly The clever toddler learned unlock the baby

intellige synonyms

fooli

antonyms

example sentence

AMUSE

exa

make someone laugh or smile

displease, disappoint

le sentence My dad can always amuse me with his funny jokes.

entertain, divert synonyms

antonyms

definition (adj.) very ugly

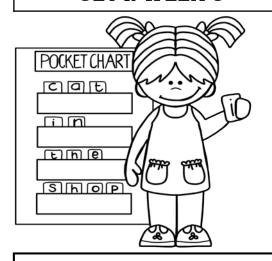
The new furniture in the living room looked example sentence hideous.

disgusting, appalling, nasty synonyms

attractive, beautiful antonyms

jiest grade SET I: WEEK 5

LESSON I: INTRODUCTION STORY



graceful
clever
amuse
hideous

"Is this dress	2"_ cy
asked. "You always by	30 " !"
said I is I know it is	ecial. Bella is
aballerina. (Carl comes
up with the most	ideas ir
science class. Wanda can	always
us with her j	jokes. I love
that you're all different,"	' said Mrs. K.

first grade **SET I: WEEK 5**

LESSON I: INTRODUCTION STORY



graceful
clever
amuse
hideous

"Is this dress	hide	ous	?"\ _	су
asked. "You alv	DIS	s y c	C. \.	ļ"
said I is I k				
a gr ceful	baller	ina. C	arl c	omes
up with the mo	ost	clever	<u> </u>	ideas in
science class. \	<i>W</i> andc	can (alwa	γS
<u>amuse</u> us	with	her jo	kes.	I love
that you're all	differ	ent," s	said	Mrs. K.

first grade **SET I: WEEK 5**

LESSON I:

Optional Teacher Discussion Questions for Introduction Story

<u>Directions:</u> If you wish, use the following suggested questions and prompts to guide your students through a discussion about this week's introduction story. These questions and prompts will help them better comprehend the story and allow them to think about and apply this week's focus words to their everyday lives. Suggested teacher language and dialogue is italicized.

Lucy was worried that the dress she had on looked <u>hideous</u>. Hideous means very ugly. What does Mrs. K tell Lucy when she asks about her dress? (Answer: She says that Lucy looks beautiful.) Yes! Mrs. K tells Lucy that she is beautiful. Hideous is the opposite of beautiful. They are both adjectives, or describing words. What other words can we use to describe what something looks like? (Answers will vary.)

Bella is a graceful ballerina. Graceful ceres a move of moving manners and speech. For example, it is proposed allows by the gracefully because they are political with any red. So, one who gives a beautiful, kind speech and down so it is one or her words is a graceful speaker. Do you know so eone is a graceful? What do they do that makes him or her graceful? (As wers will vary.)

What kind of ideas does Carl come up with in the story? (Answer: clever ideas) <u>Clever</u> means smart or bright. All of you are clever, too! Tell a friend beside you something clever. You could teach him or her an interesting fact you know about an animal, you could tell him or her something you know a lot about, or even tell him or her how something works. (Answers will vary.)

In the story, Wanda knows how to <u>amuse</u> her friends with jokes. Amuse means to make someone smile or laugh. I am going to amuse you right now by telling you a joke. Are you ready? Why did the teacher wear sunglasses? (Pause for a few seconds.) Because his class was so bright!

jirst grade SET I: WEEK 5

LESSON I: INTRODUCTION STORY FOCUS WORD CARDS

Cut out the following focus word cards to use with your introduction story for the week.

graceful

1.5



1.5

amuse

1.5

hideous

|.\ |.\

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first grade
SET I: WEEK 5

PICTURE CARD TO USE ON THIS WEEK'S WORD CHART

Optional: You may wish to cut out and color the following picture card that matches this week's theme for your vocabulary anchor chart. Simply print in color or black and white, and cut out the card you need.



first grade SET I: WEEK 5

LESSON 2:

Optional Teacher Discussion Questions for Week 5 Read-Aloud Booklet



<u>Directions:</u> If you wish, use the following suggested questions and prompts to guide your students through a discussion about this week's read-aloud booklet. These questions and prompts will help students apply this week's words to their everyday lives and think through how the words are used in different scenarios and situations. Suggested teacher language and dialogue is italicized.

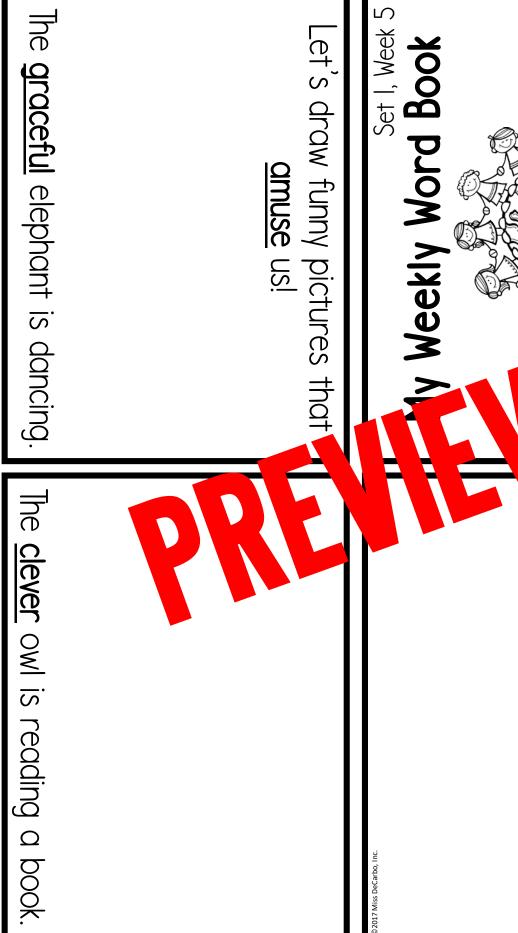
This talent show sounds like so much fun! Brett is going to <u>cmuse</u> the audience with his jokes. What happens when someone wils funny joke? (Answer: They laugh.) Yes, when we laugh, we will to the se means to make someone laugh or smile. Now, I will to to him or seide you and try to amuse him or term you will be to the gridle or just of the state. You can tell a joke gridle or just of the state.

If someone agree to she more acts, or speaks beautifully.

What did Clair to in the control was graceful? (Answer: She was a graceful baller to).) Yes Clara is a graceful dancer who moves smoothly and beautifully!

Chad shared <u>clever</u> facts about Abe Lincoln for his talent. Do you think someone who shares information and facts about someone is smart or foolish? (Answer: smart) Clever means smart. In this classroom, we are all clever! Turn and give someone beside you a compliment by saying, "You are so clever!" (Allow students to share their compliments with one another.)

Jackson wrote a story about a <u>hideous</u> monster. Hideous means very ugly. Would you rather wear a hideous outfit or a beautiful outfit? Would you rather see a hideous monster or a graceful ballerina? Would you rather have a hideous pet or an adorable baby sister or brother? (Allow students to share their silly "would you rather" opinions.)



The hideous monster is playing

B

on the computer.

first grade

SET I: WEEK 5

graceful

LESSON 3: Synonym & Antonym Cards

Cut out the synonym and antonym word cards to use with your introduction story.

elegant

1.5



1.5

awkward

1.5

clumsy

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15

first grade SET I: WEEK 5

LESSON 3: SYNONYM & ANTONYM CARDS

clever

Cut out the synonym and antonym word cards to use with your introduction story.

smart

1.5

intelligen

bright

1.5

foolish

1.5

hree synonyms and one antonym are provided this week.

first grade SET I: WEEK 5

LESSON 3: SYNONYM & ANTONYM CARDS

amuse

Cut out the synonym and antonym word cards to use with your introduction story.

entertain

1.5



1.5

displease

1.5

disappoint

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first grade

SET I: WEEK 5

hideous

LESSON 3: SYNONYM & ANTONYM CARDS

Cut out the synonym and antonym word cards to use with your introduction story.

disgusting

1.5



1.5

attractive

1.5

beautiful

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1.5

Name:

I CAN DRAW A STORY

Directions: Pretend you see a monster walking down the street. Is it a graceful monster? Is it clever? Is it hideous? Does it amuse people with its funny jokes and stories? Tell a story by drawing a picture about your monster. Be ready to share your story! If you can, label your picture with some of this week's words.



graceful clever amuse hideous

Name:

I CAN DRAW AND WRITE

Directions: Pretend you saw a monster walking down the street. Is it a graceful monster? Is it clever? Is it hideous? Does it amuse people with its funny jokes and stories? Draw and write about it below. Use some of this week's words in your writing to describe your monster.



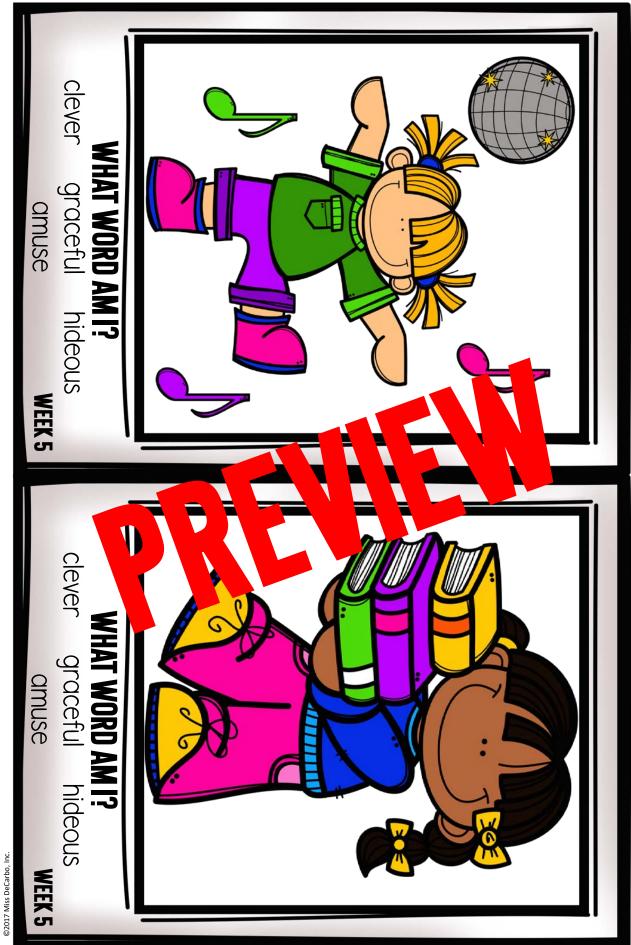
Name: **WEEKLY WORD SKETCH** Directions: Draw a picture to show what each word means to you. (9) graceful hideous amuse

PICTURE CARDS FOR WORD CHAT WORD PLAY ACTIVITY

Optional/Supplemental Activity: The following picture cards can be used with the class as an optional, additional, or supplemental word play activity throughout the week. Cut out the cards, and display them on an anchor chart or in your pocket chart. These picture cards can be used with your word cards. Students will engage in a discussion as a whole class, partners, or in small groups about which of this week's words can be used to label each picture. An answer sheet is intentionally not included because we want students to form their own conclusions, opinions, and justifications about which picture best matches the meaning of each word. In many cases, there is no "right" or "wrong" answer, as long as the students can justifulheir reasoning through their oral explanations. You can also have state ign the synonym and antonym cards to each pictured tivity and/or vocabulary challenge. If you would the, ure cards, and have students circle which with a dry each erase marker. This wa Mity or center!









Name:

LABEL THE PHOTOGRAPH

Directions: Cut out the words at the bottom of the page. Glue each word beside the picture that you think best shows the meaning of the word. Be ready to share why you made each choice!



clever graceful hideous amuse

VOCABULARY CARDS WEEK 5

graceful

beautiful in movement, manners, or speech

clever

smart and bot to learn

amuse

to make someone laugh or smile

hideous

very ugly

Why was this resource created?

As primary teachers, we know the importance of vocabulary instruction for our beginning readers. It is no surprise that research tells us there is a direct correlation between vocabulary instruction and our students' reading comprehension skills (Anderson and Nagy, 1991). In fact, the following research studies show us how vital vocabulary instruction is within our classrooms:

- In a study by Cunningham and Stanovich (1997), the vocabulary skills of first-grade students predicted their reading achievement in their junior year of high school.
- A study by Hart & Risley in 1995 found that by the age of 3, many low ŠES children already displayed a large gap in vocabulary compared to peers of higher SES.
- Three years later, we learned that this gap in vocabulary was directly related to reading and comprehension success (Snow, 1998).

We want students to acquire new vocabulary words through the authentic books they read, the books we read to them, and through the rich and robust conversations they have with others. Using picture books that contain rich vocabulary was not a struggle for me as a primary teacher, but finding additional vocabulary activities, resources, and hands-on engagement for vocabulary was often difficult. The leveled books our students read at the small-group table are often not packed with the amount of Tier 2 vocabulary words we hope to expose students to on a weekly basis. As a primary teacher myself, I craved an effective, simple weekly routine that would immerse my students in important Tier 2 vocabulary instruction that they could relate to their everyday lives.

Even more important than a desire for a weekly routine is the need for vocabulary instruction to be embedded in context and not in isolation. Teaching vocabulary words in isolation is not best practice, is not highly supported in educational research, and is not brain-based instruction. When students learn words in isolation, they often fail to remember those words and definitions, and the words are meaningless to their lives. Within this resource, the vocabulary words are always first introduced within the context of a short, kid-friendly passage. Students will make word predictions with this passage and then put the week's new words into the text based on meaning and comprehension. In addition, each week also has an additional book that focuses on the week's words. This booklet is read aloud by the teacher, and the story is different from the initial introduction passage. As a result, the students are reading, seeing, hearing, and discussing the vocabulary words in multiple ways through various scenarios, situations, and examples. We also know that students will retain their understanding of new words when they can use the words and apply them to their real lives. We are proud to share that each week's materials and lessons provide students with ample opportunities to do just that!

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What kind of words does this vocabulary resource focus on? Vocabulary words, for instructional purposes, can be divided up into three categories: Tier I words, Tier 2 words, and Tier 3 words.

<u>Tier I words</u> consist of commonly-known words. These are words that our students likely learn from their everyday experiences. Your students will most likely already know Tier I words. Examples of Tier I words consist of words such as *house*, *dog*, *lamp*, *phone*, and *apple*.

<u>Tier 2 words</u> are high-frequency words that often have multiple meanings and are seen across several content areas. These general academic words are often seen in descriptive language. Tier 2 words are the words students have the most difficulty with. They are also the words that are widely misinterpreted when reading text. Examples of Tier 2 words consist of words such as *predict*, *performed*, *timid*, and *content*.

<u>Tier 3 words</u> are low-frequency words and are very domain-specific. They are generally specific to a particular concept. These are words that students will most likely not use outside of their academic courses or careers and include words such as *photosynthesis*, *peninsula*, *economics*.

This resource focuses strictly on Tier 2 words. Building one's understanding of Tier 2 words is the fastest way to close vocabulary gaps in struggling students, because they are the words most widely used and misunderstood.

If I use this resource, is this the only vocabulary instruction and words my students will need to learn?

It is important to understand that going through the activities and lessons in this vocabulary resource will NOT result in your students knowing all of the vocabulary words they will need to know this school year. This resource is designed to be an important part of your overall vocabulary instruction and help you feel assured that you are explicitly teaching vocabulary and integrating it into your instruction on a daily and weekly basis. Just like you always have, you will continue to teach your students many more words every week through the books you read to them, the content you teach, the small-group lessons you instruct, and the conversations you have. This resource provides you with the tools you need to teach vocabulary, strategies, a routine, word play activities that can be used over and over again, and engaging discussions that will lead to additional vocabulary word exposure and rich conversations.

Why are there only four weekly focus words? Is that enough?

Since our goal as teachers should be to expose our students to as many meaningful vocabulary words as we can, understanding synonyms and antonyms is an important part of vocabulary instruction. The resource is set up to contain four "focus words" each week, but those are not the only words they will learn and be exposed to! Throughout the week, you will share synonyms and antonyms for each of the week's focus words with your students. You should use the synonyms interchangeably, and the students will engage with these synonyms and antonyms throughout the week within their word play and application activities. Therefore, your students will be constantly making connections and associations between words for each of the week's focus words. For instance, if a student hears and is exposed to two synonyms and two antonyms for each focus word, we've now exposed the student to twenty words for the week, rather than just four focus words!

I don't know if I can fit "one more thing" into my daily schedule. How long will the daily lessons take? Is the routine flexible?

It can often feel like we are trying to "fit it all in" throughout our school day. The weekly routine and program is set up to be able to be as flexible or as rigid as you would like. There are 5 lessons per week, but you can certainly complete all of them each week, or you may pick and choose two or three that you like best. The flexibility is one of the greatest beauties of this resource! I've also set it up in a simple way that allows you to swap different activities in and out if you want to mix things up and do something "different" from week to week. So for example, instead of completing the writing application activity for Lesson 5 one week, you may choose to toss that and complete a different word play activity instead. Or, you may have a three day week at school, and choose to just do the first two lessons for that week. You'll still be exposing your students to new vocabulary in a meaningful, content-rich way, even if you do not complete all five lessons throughout the week. It's a win-win for both teachers and students alike!

The activities and lessons can generally be completed in about 20 minutes. However, once again, you can extend your discussions and activities or you can complete the lessons quickly in just 15 minutes a day, if you wish.

Is this a "no-prep" or "just-print" vocabulary resource?

Even though everything has been created for you in an effort to make this intentional vocabulary time as easy and stress-free as possible, this is not a "justprint" or "no-prep" resource. Why? As a teacher and a curriculum author, I do not believe that such an important concept as vocabulary can possibly be given the credit it deserves in a "just-print" format. Each week, I suggest reading through the short introduction passage, read-aloud booklet, and teacher suggested discussion questions so that you can be prepared to discuss the concepts, scenarios, and comprehension material with your students. I also suggest previewing the weekly focus words and taking a look at the synonyms, antonyms, definitions, and example sentences. You may even want to come up with additional examples of your own to meet the individual background needs of your students. In addition to previewing the material, there will be vocabulary cards and some supplemental material to cut out and laminate (if you wish). Personally, I like to present the introduction stories for Lesson I in a pocket chart with pocket chart sentence strips. If this is something you wish to do it will require just a few minutes of prep time at the beginning of the week. The weekly anchor chart that you create with your students can be completed with them during Lesson I and will not take more than a few minutes.

I have other word lists my district requires me to teach. Can you add these words, or can I use the lessons with my own word lists?

The specific design of this resource was created for grades K-2. In each grade level, the word lists are entirely different so that students can complete the curriculum from kindergarten to second grade and not have any repeated words from week to week. I have chosen Tier 2 words that are important for your students to know and words they will commonly use, hear, see, and read throughout their entire lives. Due to the time it took to coordinate these weekly word lists across three grade levels, I will not be adding custom word lists or editable features to the resource at this time. However, if your district requires additional vocabulary words, the basic strategies, concepts, and activities can be used with your other words. For example, with a little creativity, you could certainly use most of the word play menu activities with other word lists from your classroom!

RESEARCH CITATIONS

The following is a list of articles, books, and journals that I used in my own research about vocabulary over the past several years. I'm including these citations for your convenience if you would like to read more about vocabulary instruction.

- Cunningham, A. E., & Stanovich, K. E. (1997). Early reading acquisition and its relation to reading experience and ability 10 years later. *Developmental Psychology*, *33*(6), 934-945.
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- Hart, B., & Risley, T. R. (1995). *Meaningful differences: everyday parenting and intellectual development in young American children*. Baltimore, MD: Paul H. Brookes.
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- Nagy, W. E., & Anderson, R. C. (1984). How Many Words Are There in Printed School English? *Reading Research Quarterly, 19*(3), 304.
- Snow, C. E., Burns, M. S., & Griffin, P. (1998). *Preventing reading difficulties in young children*. Washington, DC: National Academy Press.

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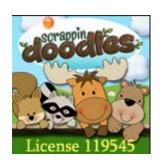
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