

Literacy Strategy *Vocabulary Knowledge* *(in Mathematics)*

Vocabulary knowledge is in constant change as students encounter different uses of terminology in different contexts. In order for students to solve word problems they need to understand the vocabulary used in the problem. Some words are best learned through direct and visual experience and by making connections. An understanding of the words contained in word problems is essential to finding a solution. This literacy strategy can easily be incorporated into mathematics teaching whenever word problems are being studied.

The teacher selects words in the problem to review with the students. Words are decoded, and their use within the context of the problem is recognized. The teacher guides the students through the problem, asking questions that require the students to think about what the problem is asking. This strategy promotes the higher level thinking necessary to interpret word problems.



Vocabulary Knowledge

Reaction Guide		
	Agree	Disagree
1. Word problems require a student to summarize information.		
2. Only a small number of students find word problems to be difficult.		
3. Literacy competencies play a major role in solving word problems.		