

Instructional Vocabulary

Grade 3 ELAR

Unit 1: Literary Discovery Begins with Fiction

- **Plot** – the basic sequence of events in a story. In conventional stories, plot has three main parts: rising action, climax and falling action.
- **Setting** – the time and place in which a narrative occurs.
- **Sensory language** – words an author uses to help the reader experience the sense elements of the story. Sensory language is language that appeals to one or more of the five senses: sight, sound, touch, smell and taste.

Unit 2: Discovering Other Literary Genres

- **Biography** – an account or interpretation of a series of events making up a person’s life
- **Autobiography** – the life story of a person, as told by himself or herself
- **Point of view** – the perspective from which the events in the story are told; the vantage point or stance

Unit 3: Reading to Discover – Expository Text

- **Homograph** – a word that is spelled the same as another word, but that has a different meaning, (e.g., *read* [present tense] and *read* [past tense])
- **Homophone** – a word that is pronounced the same, but not spelled the same, as another word and that has a different meaning (e.g., *bear* and *bare*, *week* and *weak*)

Unit 4A: Discovering Procedural Text

- **Salutation** – greeting in a letter
- **Palindrome** – a word or phrase that reads the same backward as forward (e.g., *wow*)
- **Homograph** – a word that is spelled the same as another word, but that has a different meaning, (e.g., *read* [present tense] and *read* [past tense])
- **Homophone** – a word that is pronounced the same, but not spelled the same, as another word and that has a different meaning (e.g., *bear* and *bare*, *week* and *weak*)
- **Base word** – words that can stand alone and has its own meaning
- **Root** – the basic part of a word that carries meaning

Unit 4B: Establishing a Position

- **Persuasive text** – text written with the intent to persuade or convince the reader of something
- **Position** – an opinion about a particular subject

Unit 5: Discovering Connections

- **Theme** – the central or universal idea of a piece of fiction or the main ideas on a nonfiction essay
- **Topic** – what the author is writing about- the subject (e.g., polar bears)

Unit 6A: Discovering Through Research

- **Paraphrase** – to restate the meaning of something in different words
- **Plagiarize** – to present the ideas or word of another as one's own without crediting the source
- **Open-ended research question** - a type of question used to encourage many possible responses rather than a single directed one (e.g., What are the effects of watching TV while studying?)
- **Bibliographic information** – the locating information about a source (i.e., book, journal, periodical, or Web site) - For example, a book's bibliographic information consists of author, title, place of publication, publisher, and date of publication.

Unit 6B: Media Message

- **Digital media** – electronic media that work on digital codes (as opposed to analog media); examples include e-mail, digital videos, e-books, Internet, video games, and interactive media.