

VIP words

What the strategy

A good reader will be able to pick out some key words that tell us what it is about and use them to give a summary of what has happened - these are words that give us the overall idea and are called VIP words. By finding VIP words, we can then as a good readers use them to create a summary of the text to give a gist of what it is about.

Using the strategy to build an understanding of the text

- Look for the key important words that tell us what has happened

These words will be mostly nouns and may be some adjectives. They will lack detail but tell us some key facts. Each word needs to be considered carefully to decide whether it tells us some key information or whether it provides detail, clarification or further explanation.

- Use the words to create a summary.

The gist of what has happened can then be explained in a summary, which uses the key words. Detail from the text will be lost, but the basic idea of what has happened/what has been explained will be there.

Example:

The Three Little Pigs

VIP Words: pigs, wolf, straw house, stick house, brick house, huff and puff, blown down, didn't move.

The summary that can be created from these VIP words is:

Three pigs each made a house. One was a straw house, another a stick house and the other a brick house. A wolf came and huffed and puffed to try and blow down each house one by one. The straw blew down and so did the stick. The brick house didn't move.

Question stems to help talk and think about this strategy

Who is in the text? Where is it set?

When was it happening? What happened?

Why did it happen?

What key words tell us something?

Does that word give detail or is it something we need to know?