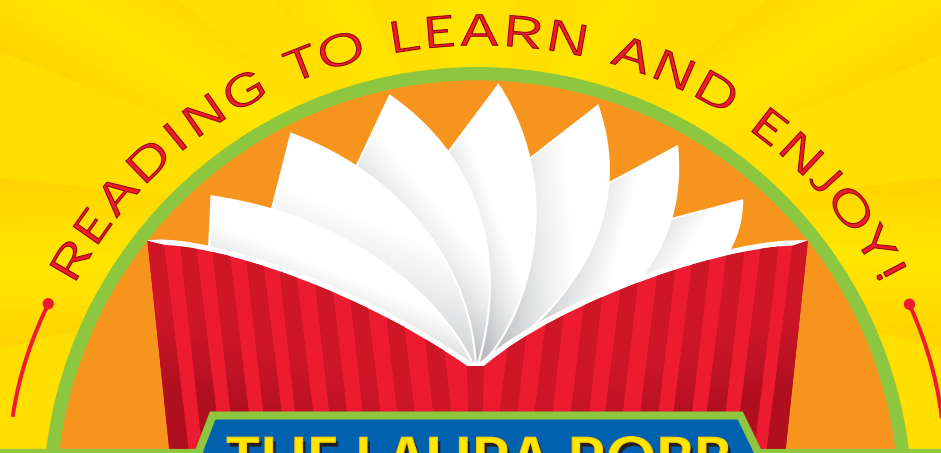


 SCHOLASTIC

Sample Pages From:



THE LAURA ROBB
CLASSROOM LIBRARY
FOR GUIDING INDEPENDENT READING

TEACHER HANDBOOK

— **DEVELOPED BY LAURA ROBB** —

Discussion Question Cards

CHARACTER

1. Choose a Character

If you had to be stranded on a deserted island with any character in this book, who would it be? Why? Who would be your last pick? Why?

CHARACTER

2. Show Me the Support

With your partner, discuss several adjectives (for example: determined, courageous, devious, nurturing) that describe what the main character is like. Pick the best two. Now scan the book for a line or a passage that proves you're right. Discuss your findings.

CHARACTER

3. Need Help With Solutions!

The main character of your book has problems he or she can't seem to solve. Choose two unsolvable problems, then explain how the main character deals with each and why each one isn't solved. With your partner, discuss possible solutions you both would explore.

CHARACTER

4. Tap Into Feelings

Sad? You cry or slump your shoulders. What you say and do tells others how you feel and what kind of person you are. The same is true for book characters. Find and discuss two passages, and explain to your partner what each taught you about the character's feelings, motivations, and personality.

THEME

5. Talk Show Interview

Take turns with your partner being the author and the interviewer. The interviewer asks, "So, would you like to spend time with one of the characters in your book?" Based on the book you and your partner completed, what would you answer? Explain why, using what you learned about the character.

THEME

6. Theme Think Tank

Discuss what the author seems to be saying about one of these topics or themes: behavior, friendship, family members, poverty, prejudice, survival, hope, peer pressure, illness, handicaps, detectives, talent. Pick one and take turns sharing your views based on the book.

STORY STRUCTURE

7. Page Turners

Did the author leave you dangling from a cliff at the end of each chapter? Discuss two or three of your favorite cliff-hangers and explain why each made you think, "I've got to read the next chapter."

STORY STRUCTURE

8. Find Those Feelings

What emotions did the story make you feel? Did you feel nervous? Fearful? Excited? Worried? Angry? Take turns sharing a passage that roused your emotions. Read it aloud to your partner, and discuss the words, phrases, and events that stirred your feelings.

PERSONAL CONNECTIONS

9. Comparing Decisions

Review some recent decisions you have made and compare these to decisions made by a character in your book. How are these decisions alike? How are they different? Discuss why the outcomes are the same or different.

PERSONAL CONNECTIONS

10. Reaching Your Destination

Is there a setting that made you think, "I've been there" or "That's a place I must visit?" Discuss the settings you connected to and explain why you relate to them.

Name _____

Date _____

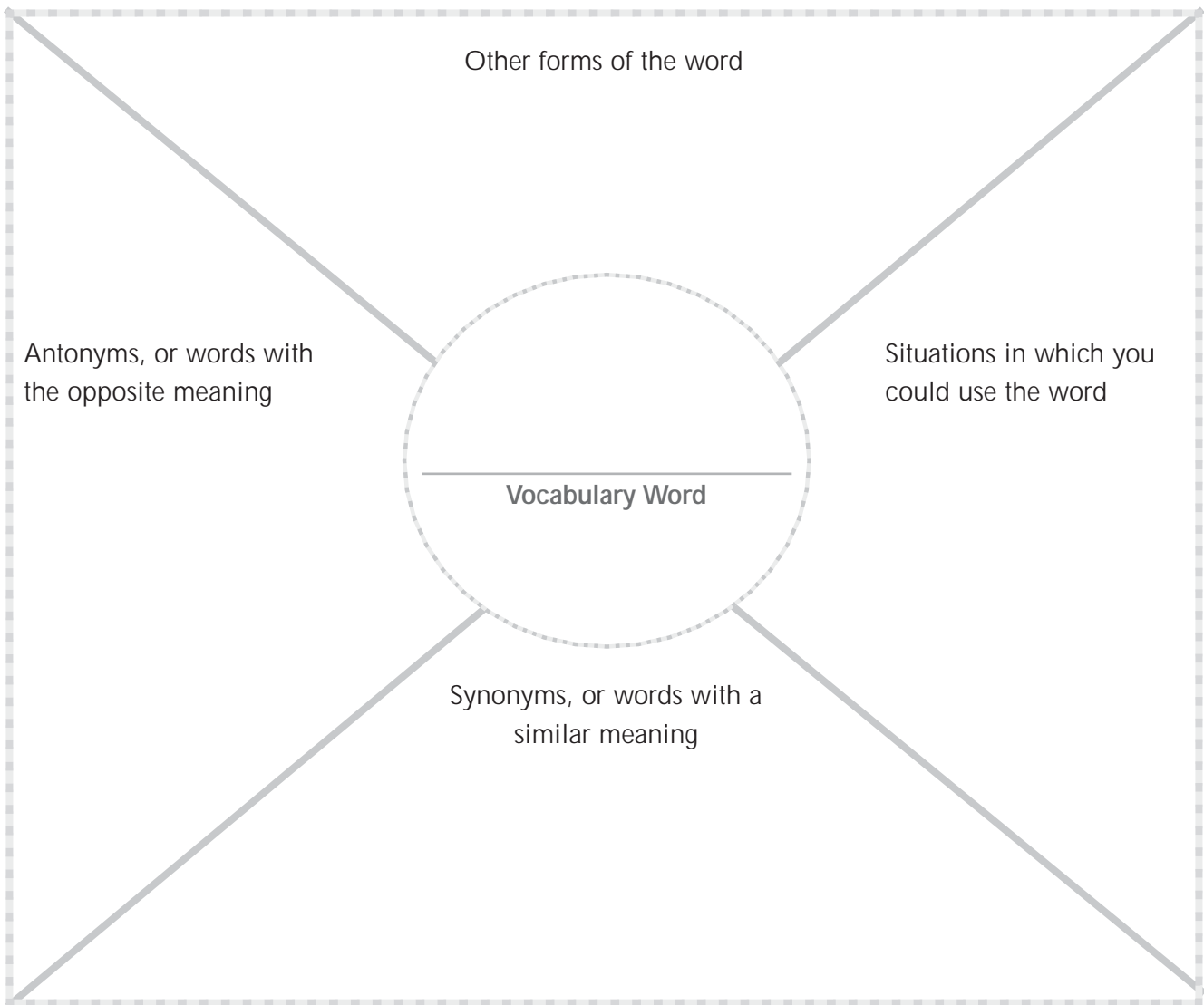
Word Webbing

Work with your partner to complete the vocabulary web below. You can use a dictionary to help you.

Record a new word that you have read in your book. Then work together to fill in the web.

How This Helps You

Expanding your vocabulary makes reading a richer, more enjoyable experience.



Projects That Promote Your Favorite Books

Every six to eight weeks, invite each student to present a creative project on a book he or she has read. The book presentation ideas that follow can become great advertisements for the books in your classroom library.

Make a Mobile

1. Have students select four events and/or people or unusual information from a fiction or nonfiction book.
2. Partners each draw and color two of these on pieces of paper.
3. On another piece of paper, write the title, author, and genre.
4. Punch a hole in each illustration and title page, run a piece of string or wool through the hole and attach it to a metal hanger.
5. Display the hanger as you present your book mobile talk. Tell your classmates the title and author, the genre, and then explain how the two items you each drew were important to the book.

Materials:

- one metal hanger
- paper
- crayons or markers
- a hole puncher
- string or wool

Give a Readers Theater Presentation

Partners can write and present their own readers theater drama. To write a script based on a section of their book, ask students to do the following:

1. Choose a section of your book—two to three pages—that is rich in dialogue.
2. Include a narrator and the characters in the script.
3. Have the narrator do the following: provide a short summary of events that occurred before the section you've planned for readers theater. The narrator also gives summaries of descriptions that occur in the book between the dialogue.
4. Rewrite the words of each character exactly as the author wrote them. For the readers theater script, you'll set these up using the structure of plays.
5. Decide which parts you and your partner will take.
6. Rehearse using an expressive voice and gestures, hand movements and facial expressions, to project each character's personality.