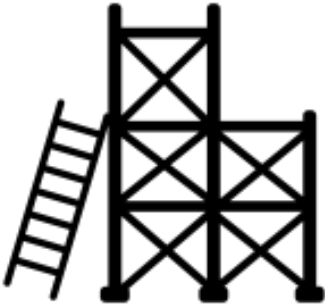
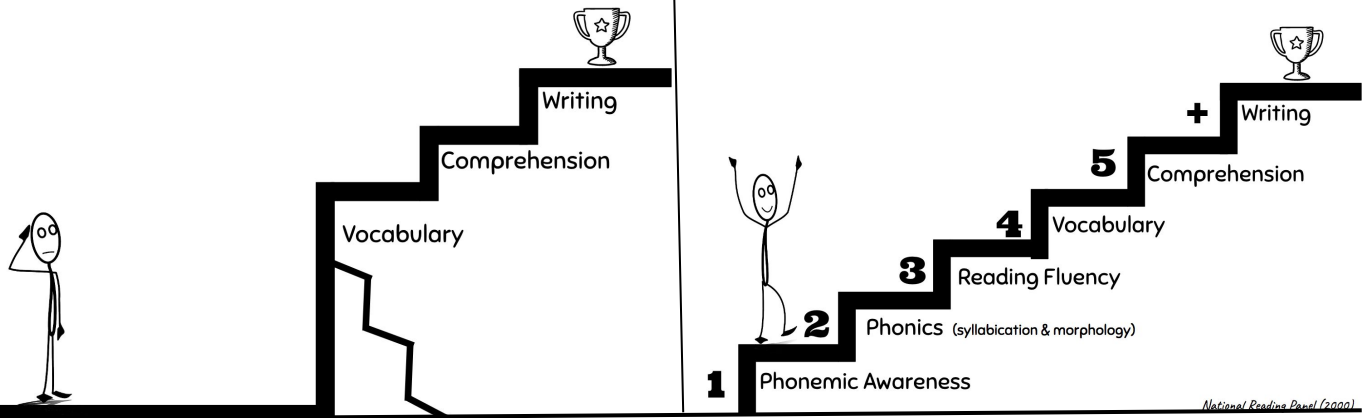


Scaffolding Vocabulary in Complex Texts



Amanda M. Nickerson, M. Ed.
Mount St. Joseph University



Guess the Missing Words

“Everybody knows that _____ have a way of _____ in the world; yet somehow we find it hard to believe in ones that crash down on our heads from a blue sky. There have been as many _____ as wars in history; yet always _____ and wars take people _____ by surprise.”

Identify Tier 2 and Tier 3 Vocabulary

Camus, A. (1948). *The Plague*. New York: Random House.

Excerpt from Part 1 (pp. 36-37):

The word “plague” had just been uttered for the first time. At this stage of the narrative, with Dr. Bernard Rieux standing at his window, the narrator may, perhaps, be allowed to justify the doctor’s uncertainty and surprise—since, with the very slight differences, his reaction was the same as that of the great majority of our townsfolk. Everybody knows that pestilence have a way of recurring in the world; yet somehow we find it hard to believe in ones that crash down on our heads from a blue sky. There have been as many plagues as wars in history; yet always plagues and wars take people equally by surprise.

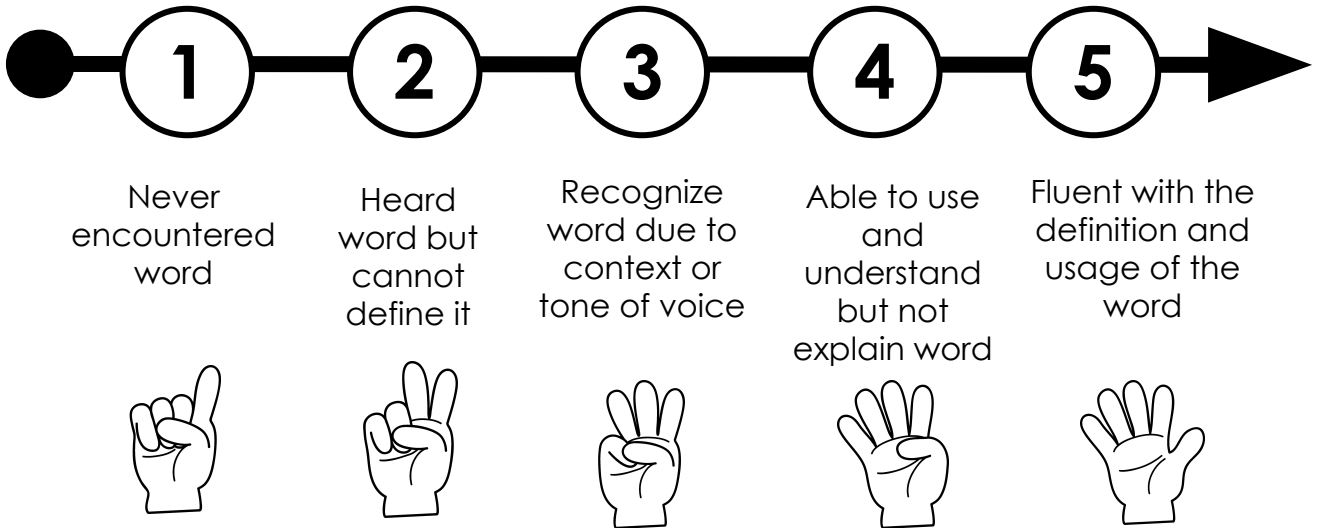
In fact, like our fellow citizens, Rieux was caught off his guard, and we should understand his hesitations in light of this fact; and similarly understand how he was torn between conflicting fears and confidence. When a war breaks out, people say, “It’s too stupid; it can’t last long.” But though a war may well be “too stupid,” that doesn’t prevent its lasting. Stupidity has a knack of getting its way; as we should see if we were not always so much wrapped up in ourselves.

In this respect our townsfolk were like everybody else, wrapped up in themselves; in other words they were humanists: they disbelieved in pestilences. A pestilence isn’t a thing made to man’s measure; therefore we tell ourselves that pestilence is a mere bogey of the mind, a bad dream that will pass away, and the humanists, first of all, because they haven’t taken any precautions. Our townsfolk were not more to blame than others; they forgot to be modest, that was all, and thought that everything was still possible for them; which presupposed that pestilences were impossible. They went on doing business, arranged for journeys, and formed views. How should they have given a thought to anything like plague, which rules out any future, cancels journeys, silences the exchange of views. They fancied themselves free, and no will will ever be free so long as there are pestilences.

Tier 2 Vocabulary

Tier 3 Vocabulary

Levels of Word Knowledge



Syllable Boxes

--	--	--	--	--	--
