

TITLE/RESOURCE

newsletter

NOVEMBER 21, 2024

SCHEMA-BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

An important part of being a good reader is the ability to access one's schema. I describe it to the students a filing cabinet in our brain. All the moments in our lives are filed away in different drawers and folders of that cabinet. When we are reading our brain naturally makes those connections between what we are reading and our experiences. The trick is making note of those connections. Not everyone's schema is the same; we have not all had the same experiences. That can make some connections difficult. Sometimes we may not have the exact schema to relate to a particular situation. Our brain needs to map similar instances to help us connect. At any age, the more we read the more we are able to add to our schema, even if our experience is made through text connections.

NO HOMEWORK FOLDER

As you may have noticed, the homework from me did not come home last week. I will not be sending it home again until after Thanksgiving break.

WHY IS VOCABULARY IMPORTANT?

Vocabulary, knowledge of words, is the building block of reading and understanding text. Some studies indicate that students should have added 40,000 new words to their vocabulary by the time they graduate high school. That breaks down to around 3,300 new words each year and 90 new words each week. The best way to learn vocabulary is by using it. And the best way to know how to use it is by example. Do not shy away from exposing your child(ren) to more complex words, however, be sure to explain and make that connection to words they are already familiar with. Encourage your child(ren) to use multiple words in descriptions or explain an event using different words.

Email: lboyle@stanthonschoolsullivan.com

Note: I am at school Tuesday-Thursday each week.