

Brief Focus Lesson

Expand Vocabulary: Voracious Reading for Grade 4

Text: *LaRue Across America: Postcards from the Vacation* by Mark Teague

<p>CAFE Goal</p>	<p>Expand Vocabulary</p>
<p>CAFE Strategy</p>	<p>Voracious Reading</p>
<p>Observe/Relate (1 – 2 min.)</p>	<p>What do you know about postcards? Some people like to send postcards to their friends when they go on trips. Have you ever gotten one? A postcard does not have a lot of space on it, so most travelers only write a few words on it. Except Ike LaRue! As you'll discover in the book <i>LaRue Across America: Postcards from the Vacation</i> by Mark Teague, Ike loves to write and talk even though he is a dog. He has a very rich vocabulary, and he knows lots of different words that he can use to describe the incredibly terrible things that happen to him. If you want to find colorful words like Ike uses, all you have to do is read a book. The more books you read, the more words you will discover.</p>
<p>Teach and Reinforce (2 – 3 min.)</p>	<p>Establish purpose – Today we are learning to do voracious reading so that we find interesting words. We want to expand our vocabularies.</p> <p>Create urgency – We are learning to do voracious reading because it is one of the best ways to discover new words, and it really is fun.</p> <p>Explicit teacher modeling – <i>(Please number the pages of the text for easy reference as they are unnumbered).</i> “As I share part of the book <i>LaRue Across America: Postcards from the Vacation</i> today, you are bound to notice that Ike LaRue has a huge vocabulary. He must have learned the great words he knows by reading books—lots of them. Let me show you what I mean as you listen to Ike’s story.” <i>Begin reading page 5.</i> “Here is the postcard that Ike wrote on July 10th to describe his desperate situation.” <i>After reading it, comment on some of the interesting words on the page such as hideous, wasteland, abandon, ridiculous and scene. Say “Ike, or should I say the writer, Mark Teague, has used some very interesting words here. I have seen these words before, but I don’t use them often. They are unique and colorful words, so I definitely want to use them when I talk and write. The more that I read, the more chances I have to encounter and use words like these. I can even read more about Ike and some of the unfortunate things that happen to Ike in other books by Mark Teague such as <i>Dear Mrs. LaRue: Letters from Obedience School, Detective LaRue; Letters from the investigation, and LaRue for Mayor: Letters from the Campaign</i></i></p>

	<p><i>Trail</i>. It is a good thing that Ike likes to write because that poor dog really does have a lot of complaints.</p>
<p>Practice (2 – 3 min.)</p>	<p>We have been talking about doing Voracious Reading to Expand Vocabulary. The book <i>LaRue Across America: Postcards from the Vacation</i> has excellent examples of interesting vocabulary. Some of the words I shared with you were challenging to say like ridiculous, and others were words that were unusual like hideous. Here’s another postcard from Ike, who really must be a voracious reader to know all of these terrific words! (<i>Display the next postcard dated July 11th on page 6</i>). Look at the postcard from Ike that I have displayed (<i>share the text with students via a document camera or by writing it on the board</i>). Listen as I read it aloud. Next, have a conversation with your partner that tells how voracious reading helps you to expand your vocabulary. Then name a word from this postcard that you would like to add to your vocabulary and explain why. Here’s a sentence frame that you can use to get started if you like.</p> <p><i>Voracious reading helps me to expand my vocabulary because _____.</i></p> <p><i>A word from the book that I want to add to my vocabulary is _____ because _____.</i></p> <p>When you have finished your conversations, I will invite a few students to share.</p>
<p>Encourage and Plan (1 – 2 min.)</p>	<p>The book <i>LaRue Across America: Postcards from the Vacation</i> has excellent examples of attention-getting vocabulary. Some of the words I shared with you were fun to say; others were words that were long; some were very unusual. As you read your good fit books, look for words like these and try to use them when you write and talk. The more books you read, the more words you will find. Being a voracious reader helps you to have a rich vocabulary.</p>
<p>Common Core Alignment</p>	<p>Most strategies are applicable to all grade levels. Voracious Reading to Expand Vocabulary aligns with Standards RL.4.10, RI. 4.10, and L.4.6 on our Grade 4 CAFÉ Menu or CCSS Grade Level Matrix.</p>