



Ready Reference Form

Goal: Expand Vocabulary Strategy: Use Pictures, Illustrations, and Diagrams	
Definition	Readers increase their vocabulary by paying attention to pictures, illustrations, and diagrams. They use the context of the story, their background knowledge of what is being read, and at times infer to gain meaning of the word and text.
Why Children Need This Strategy	Illustrations give clues about the meaning of words and text. Paying attention to the pictures may confirm the meaning of words. Picture books are not the only texts where pictures convey meaning. Readers are exposed to pictures in much of their nonfiction reading. Knowing how to figure out words by using background knowledge, looking at the picture, and inferring its meaning enhances vocabulary.
Secret to Success	Cross checking: do the pictures match what I think the word means, and does it make sense?
How We Teach It	<p>This strategy is used most often when working on the goal of accuracy. We teach students to “Use the picture . . . Do the words and pictures match?” by cross checking. During vocabulary work, we teach this strategy similarly, but now we focus on the word, writing it either on our whole-class word collector or in individual word collectors so we can learn it for later use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Read a picture book or nonfiction book. ◆ When you come to a word you don’t know, stop. ◆ State the strategy you will use by telling students, “I am going to look at this picture to see if I can figure out what this word means.” ◆ Infer meaning based on background knowledge of text and what is represented in the picture. ◆ Write the word on a word collector, or celebrate figuring out the word, which elevated your understanding of the text.
Troubleshooting	This is a pretty straightforward strategy. Teachers find when they are modeling their reading that it is natural to stop and review what they are thinking when they come to a word they don’t know, looking at the pictures and then confirming meaning.