

T3 ~ Number 23  
March 29, 2011

**Strategy:**  
**VOCABULARY THEATER**

**WORD WISDOM**

- Words embody power, words embrace action, and words enable us to speak, read, and write with clarity, confidence, and charm.
- Vocabulary...is integral to communication and expression, reading comprehension, and thought.
- IT IS THE "CORNERSTONE OF LITERACY" AND IS INHERENTLY LINKED TO ACHIEVEMENT BOTH IN AND OUT OF THE CLASSROOM.
- **There is a consistent positive correlation between a thorough knowledge of vocabulary & reading comprehension.**
- **AS VOCABULARY DEVELOPS, SO DOES READING COMPREHENSION; AS READING COMPREHENSION DEVELOPS, SO DO STUDENTS' ABILITIES TO INFER MEANING FROM CONTEXT.**



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Adapted from:

Savino, Jennifer Ann. "The Shakespeare in All of Us: A Monumental, Premeditated Approach to Vocabulary Instruction." *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy* 54.6 (2011): 445-53. Print.

**Vocabulary Theater**

- Involves students acting out the vocabulary words in a charades-like game
- Students can work alone, in pairs, or in groups
- They use facial expressions or gestures to represent a single word or put together a silent skit that represent one word or a group of words
- An alternative is to suggest a group of words that are similar by having varying degrees of intensity – *upset, irritated, mad, enraged, irate, & livid*. Have students work in groups in which each member acts out one of the words. The class must guess which student is representing which emotion. This activity promotes teamwork and should engender discussion of the varying subtleties of each word, leading to the understanding of shades of meaning.
- Can be used to review for a test or a quick check for understanding