Essential Skill: Domain-specific Vocabulary

Kite Fest

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, writers. It's Anne. Every spring, the town I live in puts together a kite festival. It's called the ABC Kite Fest, and it's been happening for over 90 years. There are games, crafts, music, and of course, lots of kite flying. Kites come in so many shapes and colors. I always love looking at all of the different designs. Like this one, or this one, and this one. Wow!

DISCUSSION 1

Discuss: If you could design and build a kite, what would yours look like?

HOOK 2

At our Kite Fest, people design lots of unique kites, like neon-colored kites or three-dimensional kites like this box kite. There are even giant animal kites like this blue whale kite—it's almost one hundred feet long like a real blue whale in the ocean.

My friend Zuri loves building kites with her dad. This year, she wants to set up a booth at Kite Fest so that she can show other kids how to build and design a kite of their own. Zuri knows that she could just show each person how to build the kite, but she thinks it'll be more helpful if these instructions are written down. That way, everyone she hands

the instructions and supplies to will be able to read and understand each step. This is what she wrote for her instructions on how to build a kite:

1. Take the pieces and lay them on the dotted line of the other piece.
2. Tape the pieces onto the corners of the big piece.
3. Tape the pieces together in the middle.
4. Thread the shorter piece through the hole at the top of the big piece and tie a knot.
5. Take the long piece and tie it to the short piece.
6. Take the new piece and tape it at the bottom of the big piece.

DISCUSSION 2

Discuss: Do you think you could build a kite after reading this? What do you notice about Zuri's instructions on how to build a kite?

HOOK 3

You may have said Zuri's instructions were hard to follow, or that she used the word “piece” a lot, or that you never really knew what piece she was talking about each time.

Zuri is an expert on making kites, but you probably wouldn't know that by reading her words. You can be an expert, but not sound like an expert, in your writing.

Zuri has built and flown a lot of kites, but she never really thought about what all the pieces were called. Zuri asked her dad if he could help her draw a diagram of the kite so that she could learn the right words for all of these pieces.

This big, flat part of the kite is called the *sail* because it uses the wind to sail in the sky—sort of like a sailboat sail.

These two parts are called the *dowels*, which is another word for a rounded stick.

Kites have two *strings*: a short one and a long one.

The long string is wrapped around a *spool*. The spool stops the long string from getting tangled up and makes it easier to unravel.

Finally, this part is the *tail*. Zuri learned that the tail is actually one of the most important parts of the kite because it weighs down the bottom, helping it fly straight.

These are bigger words that aren't used every day, but they are about a specific subject and can help the reader understand exactly what you're writing about. They're called *vocabulary words*. When writers use vocabulary words, they can sound like an expert and help their reader feel like an expert.

DISCUSSION 3

Discuss: Now that we know the exact name of each part on a kite, how can we change Zuri's first two instructions? What suggestions would you give her?

HOOK 4

Here's how Zuri's first two instructions changed:

1. Take the dowels and lay them on the dotted line of the sail.
2. Tape the dowels onto the corners of the sail.

Her instructions are starting to sound so much better. Changing these words into kite vocabulary words made it more exact and easier to follow.

Now it's your turn to help Zuri. She wants to make sure that her instructions are very clear and don't say the word piece over and over again. She needs your help using the

right words about kites so that her instructions use the right vocabulary word. Zuri can sound like the expert and help her readers feel like experts, too.

I'll get you started, step by step.

STEP 1

Get your supplies.

STEP 2

In today's lesson, you'll need someone to share ideas with. This could be a partner or someone you sit near. When everyone knows who their talk partner is, move on to the next step.

STEP 3

The first two instructions are already written with the right vocabulary words on your Build a Kite worksheet.

Point to number 3.

Let's read the sentence together. When you hear the word “pieces,” make a confused face, like this.

Ready?

Three, two, one!

Tape the pieces in the middle together.

STEP 4

Discuss with your partner: Watch this video and decide what vocabulary word you could use instead of pieces.

Remember, you can use your diagram to help you figure out the right word.

STEP 5

Cross out the word "pieces" in the first version of the sentence. Fill in the correct vocabulary word in the blank.

STEP 6

Here's what Zuri wrote: Tape the dowels in the middle together.

Now point number 4.

Let's read the sentence together. Remember, each time you hear the word "piece," make a confused face, like this.

Ready?

Three, two, one!

Thread the shorter piece through the hole on the top of the piece and tie a knot.

STEP 7

Discuss with your partner: Watch this video and decide what vocabulary words you could use instead of piece.

This one will use two different vocabulary words. Remember, you can use your diagram to help you find the right word.

STEP 8

Cross out the word "piece" in the first version of the sentence. There are two. Fill in the correct vocabulary words in the blank.

STEP 9

Here's what Zuri wrote: Thread the shorter string through the hole at the top of the sail and tie a knot.

Now point to number 5.

Let's read the sentence together.

Don't forget to make a confused face each time you hear the word "piece."

Ready?

Three, two, one!

Take the long piece and tie it to the short piece.

STEP 10

Discuss with your partner: Watch this video and decide what vocabulary word you could use instead of piece.

STEP 11

Cross out the word "piece" in the first version of the sentence. There are two. This time you will write the sentence on the lines below with the new vocabulary words.

STEP 12

Here's what Zuri wrote: Take the long string and tie it to the short string.

Point to number 6.

Notice how this time there isn't a sentence with the word piece.

STEP 13

Discuss with your partner: Watch this video for the last step. How would you write a sentence describing this step?

STEP 14

Write your sentence on the lines below.

STEP 15

Here's what Zuri wrote: Tape the tail to the bottom of the sail.

Click the arrow when you're ready to move on.

WRAP UP

Wow! Look at these instructions and their vocabulary words. Thanks to you, Zuri took these instructions and the confusing "pieces" and turned them into expert level words. When writers use vocabulary words, they can sound like an expert and help the reader feel like an expert.

When Zuri hands out her instructions at Kite Fest, she knows her readers will get to feel like experts when they are building their kites. Awesome job!

Now that her readers will get to feel like experts building these kites, maybe next time they'll learn how to build a kite like this.

See you next time, writers!