Teaching Vocabulary & Language Skills

An APPtivity

Overview

The ideas on the following pages will assist you in teaching any standard that relate to the following anchor standards:

RL & RI Anchor Standard 4
Language 1, 4, 5, & 6
Math, Science, and Social Studies Vocabulary
Grammar skills such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc.
Context clues
Dictionary/Glossary Skills
Figurative Language
...and much more!

Ways to Differentiate the lessons:
Depending on the grade level and abilities of your students here are ways to differentiate:
Do the lesson as a whole group and write the definitions provided by the students.
Have students video their definitions rather than having to write them.
Choose a page from the book for students to look for words rather than the whole book.
Use fewer words and/or more words for students to find.
Put students in pairs or in groups.

Possible Apps

My favorite app for this apptivity is the Book Creator or Scribble Press app. Book Creator allows the user to move, resize, and place the content of the apptivity anywhere within the book and add video, photos, drawings, and sound. Students can share their work into iBooks or any other eReader. Students love to refer back to their work in the iBook app. There is also a free version of the app but it will only allow you to create 1 book. The Scribble Press app allows students to draw right in the book which is also a great function. However, there is no video/audio function.

If you are using Book Creator you could allow students to draw pictures to represent the vocabulary they can either draw the picture on paper and take a picture of it or use one of the possible apps:

Doodle Buddy (FREE)
Drawing Pad ($1.99
Brushes (FREE)

Lesson Overview

Students will choose 5 unknown or interesting words and /or phrases from whatever book you are studying to complete the provided handout. It is important to have lots of discussion about the words students choose and make sure that students are writing kid-friendly definitions based on the reading and context. LOTS of DISCUSSION! :):) If you would like to see how we did this in the classroom click [here](#).

Once students have completed the handout they can begin to create a glossary of words. In the example from my blog the students used the Scribble Press app to create their glossary. However, I like the Book Creator app to because of the differentiation option of allowing students to videotape and record their thinking. I have provided handouts that can be copied to make pages for the picture glossary. Students will find or draw pictures to represent their words and write a kid-friendly definition. Students will then put the pages in ABC order.

Be sure to share work throughout the unit!

Lesson Plan

Objective: TLW understand words in context through pictures, discussion, and creation.

I do: After reading a mentor text, guided reading book, or any other book that relates to the lesson, model for students how to choose a word or phrase from the text and add it to the graphic organizer. Show students how to use the context of the story to come up with a kid-friendly definition and if needed use a dictionary or dictionary app to assist them. Then show students how to find pictures online that represent the word or phrase or they may draw a picture. (In another lesson you might want to show students how to use drawing apps to draw their picture.)

We do: Allow students to then choose a word from the text as a class. Students will write down the word and decide on a kid-friendly definition and add it to their graphic organizer. They will then find a picture that represent the word or phrase on their iPad.

You do: Once you feel students are ready to work independently; allow students to continue the process of choosing their words or phrases.

Share Time: This time could very well be the most important part of the lesson. At the end of the lesson, allow students to share their definitions. This is a valuable addition to your lesson because it allows students to discuss, see how other students used kid-friendly definitions, and assess progress. You will definitely need to refer to what it means to be kid-friendly often. Encourage students to go back to their work to edit any definitions that students cannot read, are not kid friendly, and/or do not relate to the context of the story. Click here to see how we did i

Lesson Plan

Objective: TLW create a book or glossary of words or phrases related to content being studied.

I do: Review with students what they learned from the lesson before about such things as kid-friendly definitions, using the context of the story, finding appropriate images, etc. Tell students today they are going to create a book of words using the app of choice. (If technology is unavailable use the provided glossary template.) If necessary, model for students using the word from the previous lesson how to add it to the book app or template.

We do: Allow students to then choose a word from the handout to create their first page. Go around the room and assist students as needed.

You do: Once you feel students are ready to work independently; allow students to continue the process of adding their words to their books. Once students are finished with their book have them publish it to iBooks or any other eReader app.

Share Time: This time could very well be the most important part of the lesson. At the end of the lesson allow students to share their books with the class. This is a valuable addition to your lesson because it allows students to discuss, see how other students used kid-friendly definitions, and assess progress. Encourage students to go back to their work to edit any definitions that students cannot read, are not kid friendly, and/or do not relate to the context of the story.

Examples

advice

ADVICE.
Eat good food
Be kind
Tell the truth

Advice when somebody helps you

Settle

Settle to rest and relax
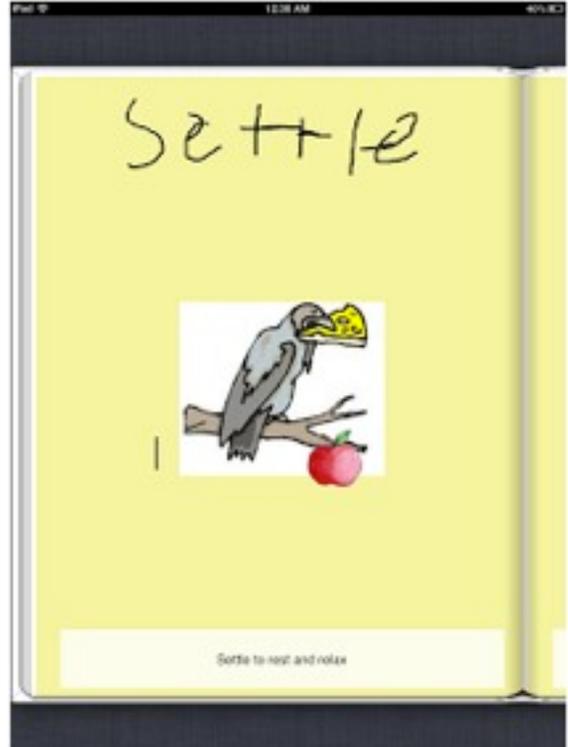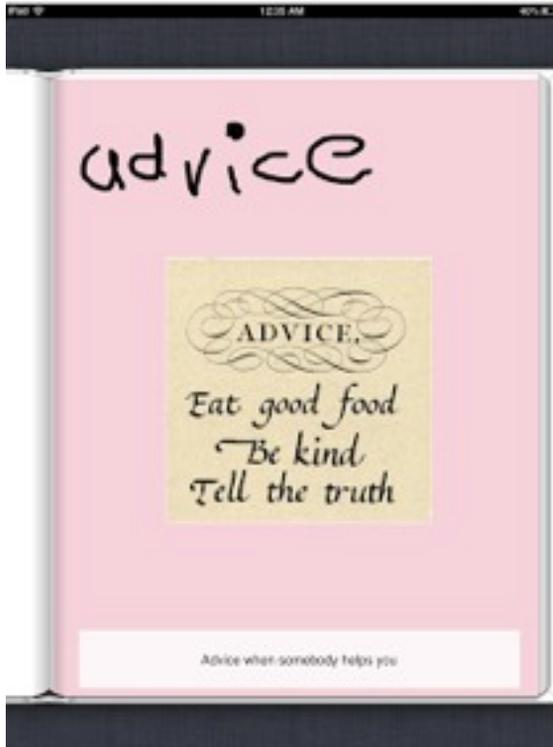
I can...

Learn New Vocabulary

RL.4

| Word or Phrase	Kid-Friendly Definition	Picture

Name

Title

My Picture Glossary
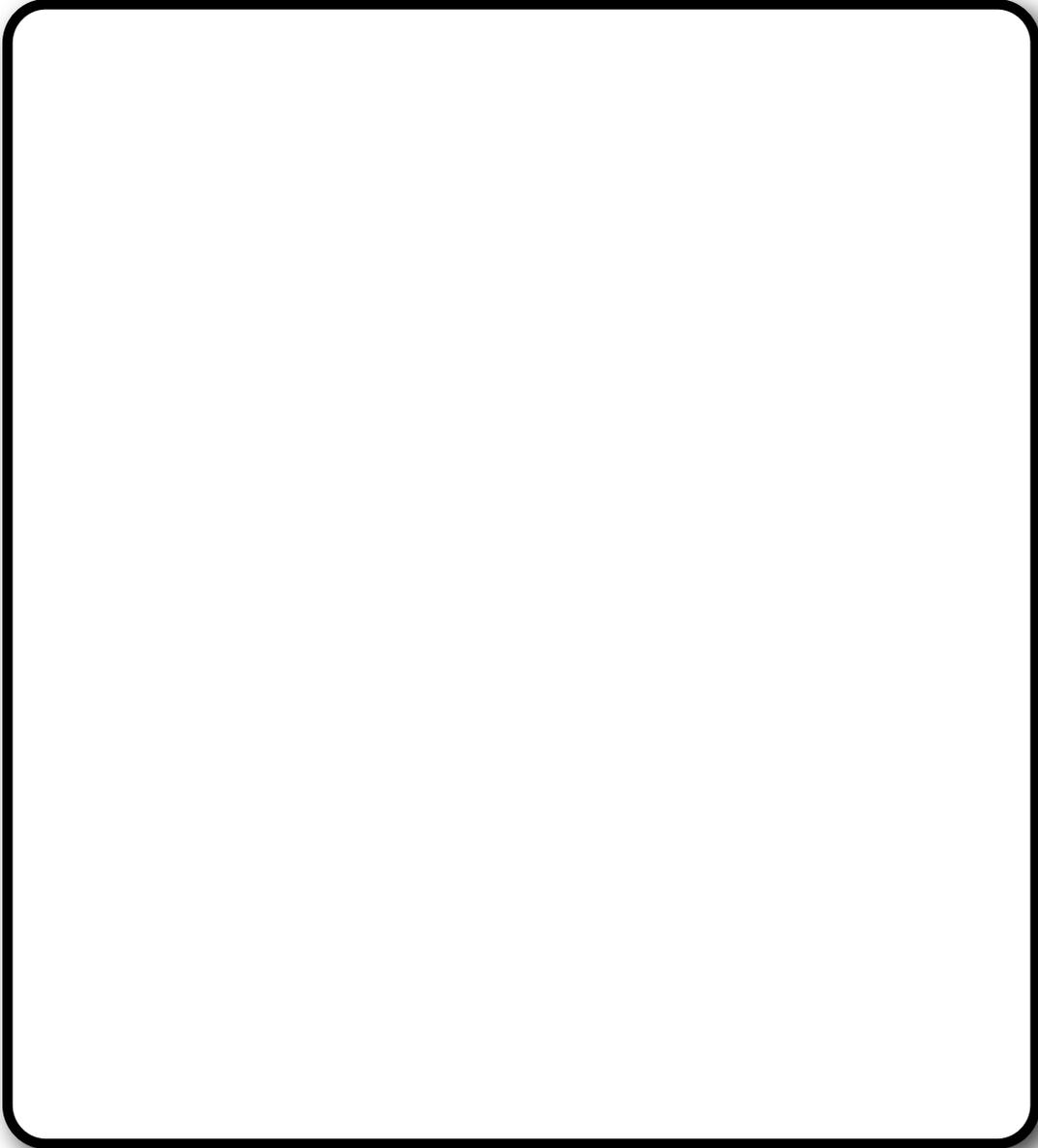
Name
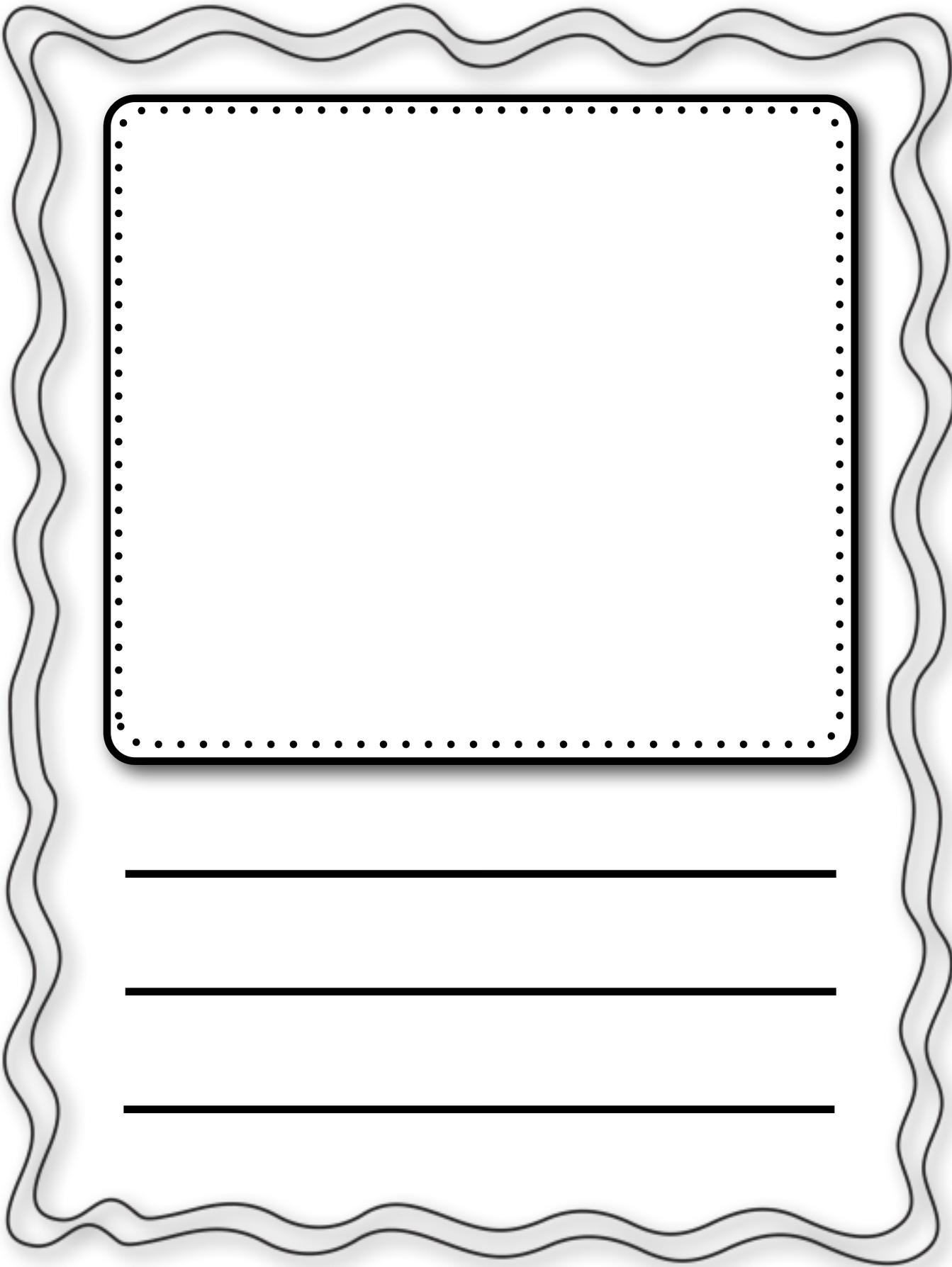
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Please feel free to email me at kimbrell1971@gmail.com if you have any questions or if there are any errors in this document.

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