

INTRODUCTION

The Timony Elementary School (K-8) has implemented The 7 Steps SEI vocabulary strategy as a school-wide initiative to build students' academic language.



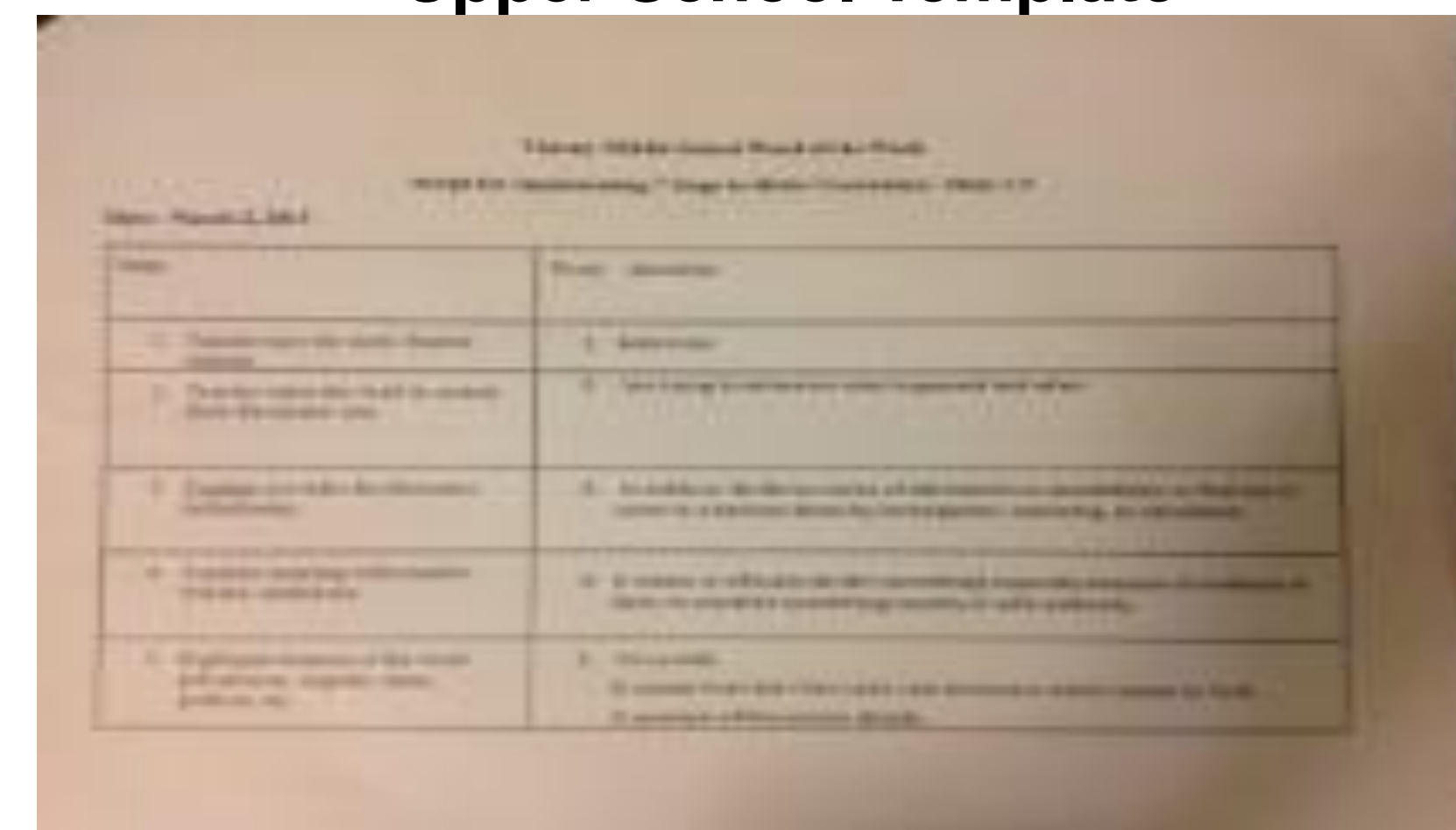
DESCRIPTION

The Timony Elementary School adopted a Word of the Week initiative in January 2015. The 7 Steps strategy was incorporated as a way to promote explicit vocabulary instruction as well as embed an SEI strategy school-wide.

Every Monday, a whole school announcement of the "word" is made and the first 5 steps of The 7 Step Process are done together. Teachers then do steps 6 and 7 in their classrooms throughout the week. A bulletin board display is in the main hallway and daily morning and afternoon reminders of the Word of the Week are made over the announcement system.

Teachers are provided a template of the steps for each word prior to the announcement.

Upper School Template



Upper School templates highlight word features such as part of speech, word roots and cognates, synonyms, antonyms, and other word forms.

Lower School Template

Script for Implementing 7 Steps to Better Vocabulary- Adapted for Elementary School
Date: May 4, 2015

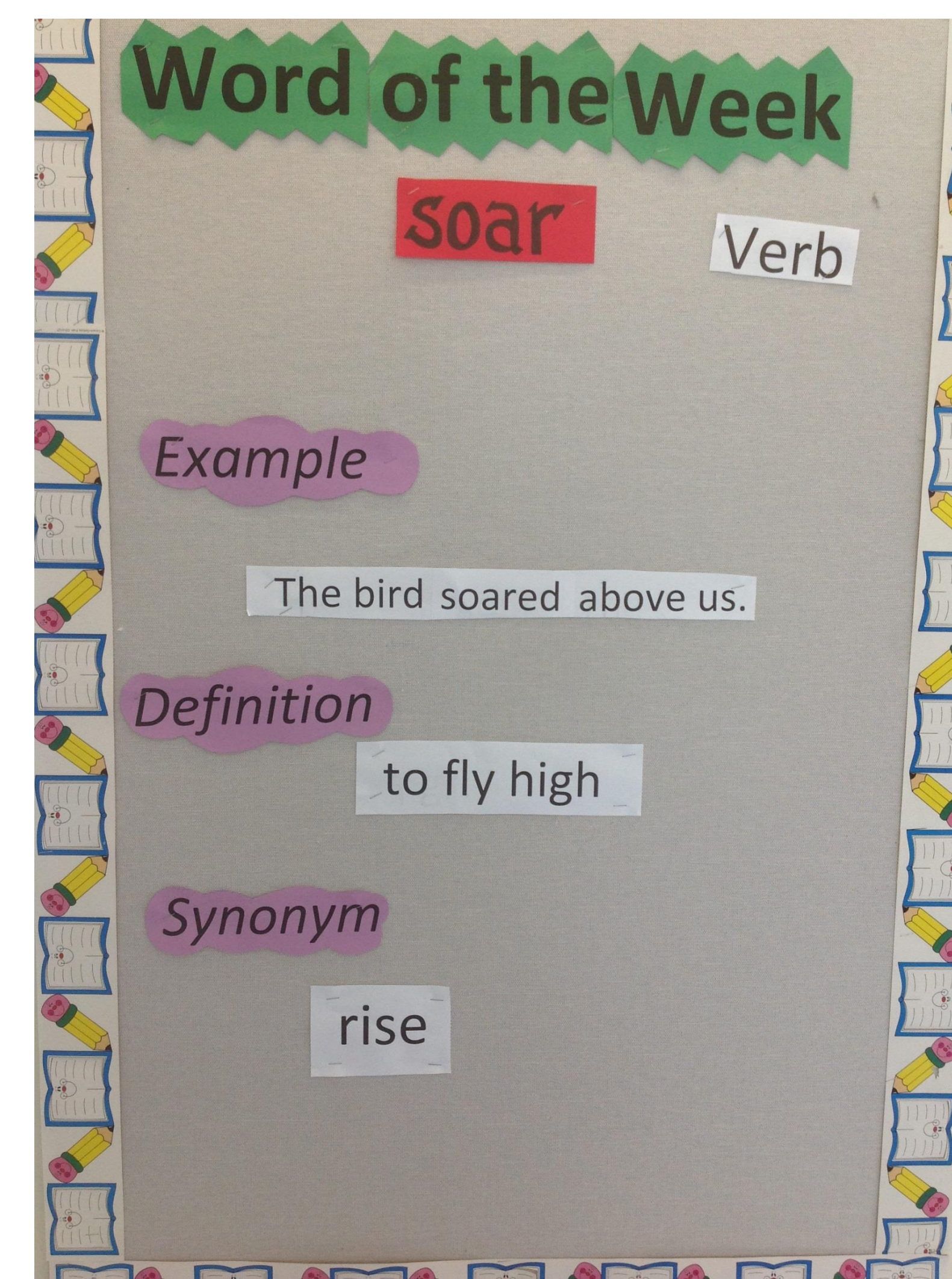
Steps	Word: infer
1. Teacher says-spells-says the word. Students repeat.	1. infer - i- n- f- e- r- infer
2. Teacher states the word in context.	2. From the sad look on his face, we can infer he is unhappy.
3. Student-friendly definition.	3. It means to read between the lines.
3. Highlight feature of the word-	4. Synonyms are conclude and understand.

Lower School templates focus on synonyms.



The "word" and word features are displayed in the main hallway for all to see. Previous words are kept up as a reminder to students.

Teachers were asked to complete steps 6 and 7 in their classrooms, but not required to do so. Response was so great that displays about the words were put up by grade level teams. Teachers posted words in their individual classrooms. Quizzes were given on the posted words. Prizes were handed out to students by administrators for correct definitions and usage of words as students were dismissed.



APPLICATION

■The 7 Steps can be implemented as a whole school, grade level, content team or in an individual classroom.

■Consistency is the key and the more staff that are involved the easier it is to implement this strategy.

■The first step is to develop a master academic word list through tiering vocabulary based on the relevance, teaching potential, and usage of vocabulary.

■Once words are selected, The 7 Step templates should be completed by teachers. By working off of a common template for each word, all students receive the same exposure to the target vocabulary word. The entire group/school does the 5 steps together. This only leaves steps 6 and 7 for teachers to complete in their classrooms. This allows for a simple and consistent way for all to build academic language.

■A decision as to frequency and time of day for the 7 Step announcements should be decided.

■Teachers, administrators, and even students can make the Word of the Week announcement.

■Culminating tasks such as poetry and essay competitions incorporating the target vocabulary can be added to increase student engagement and whole school involvement.

RESOURCES

Calderon, M. (2011). *Teaching reading and comprehension to English language learners K-5*, pp. 67-83. Bloomington, IN: Solution Tree Press.

Calderon, M. (2007). *A framework for improving achievement in the content areas*, pp. 29-45: Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press.

STRATEGY

- Tiered Vocabulary
- The 7 Step Process for Pre-Teaching Vocabulary
- Turn To Your Partner