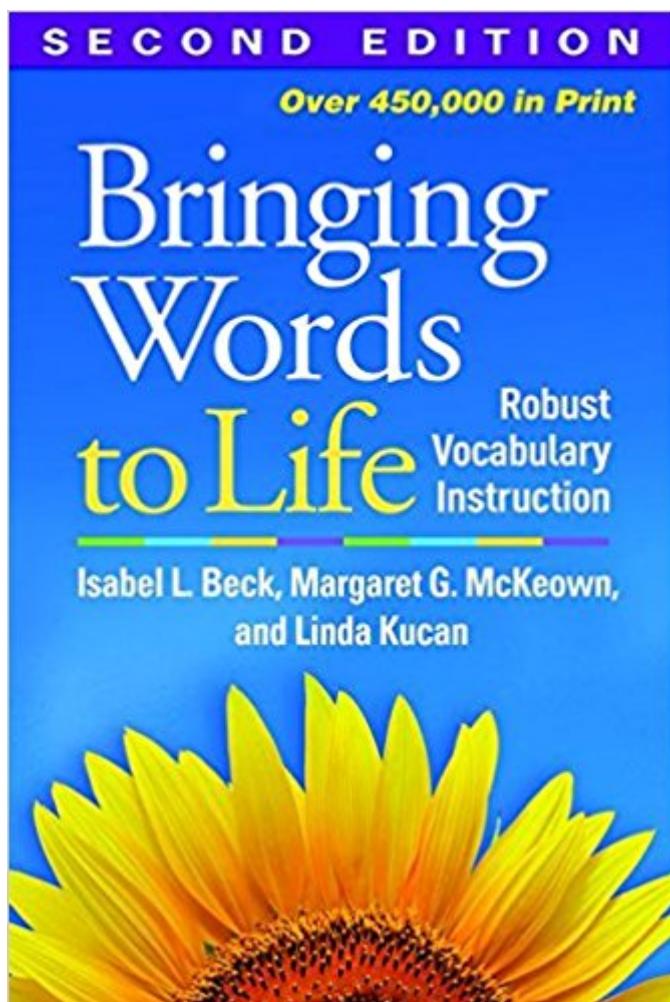


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# Bringing Words To Life, Second Edition: Robust Vocabulary Instruction



## Synopsis

Hundreds of thousands of teachers have used this highly practical guide to help K-12 students enlarge their vocabulary and get involved in noticing, understanding, and using new words. Grounded in research, the book explains how to select words for instruction, introduce their meanings, and create engaging learning activities that promote both word knowledge and reading comprehension. The authors are trusted experts who draw on extensive experience in diverse classrooms and schools. Sample lessons and vignettes, children's literature suggestions, end-of-chapter summaries, and "Your Turn" learning activities enhance the book's utility as a classroom resource, professional development tool, or course text. **New to This Edition** \*Reflects over a decade of advances in research-based vocabulary instruction. \*Chapters on vocabulary and writing; assessment; and differentiating instruction for struggling readers and English language learners, including coverage of response to intervention (RTI). \*Expanded discussions of content-area vocabulary and multiple-meaning words. \*Many additional examples showing what robust instruction looks like in action. \*Appendix with a useful menu of instructional activities. See also the authors' *Creating Robust Vocabulary: Frequently Asked Questions and Extended Examples*, which includes specific instructional sequences for different grade ranges, as well as *Making Sense of Phonics, Second Edition: The Hows and Whys*, by Isabel L. Beck and Mark E. Beck, an invaluable resource for K-3. Â

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Bringing Words to Life is, without doubt, one of the best and most influential books ever published on the topic of teaching and developing vocabulary. The second edition is even better than the first--it addresses recent issues such as the Common Core and RTI; provides a greater number of helpful, practical examples; addresses vocabulary and writing; takes on the challenge of providing effective vocabulary instruction for struggling readers and English learners; and offers guidance for teaching math, science, and social studies vocabulary in the intermediate grades. This book should be required reading for anyone seeking teacher or reading specialist certification."--John Pikulski, PhD, Department of Educational Development (Emeritus), University of Delaware

"This is a book teachers will read, reread, and refer to many times to nurture a love of language through joyful, robust vocabulary instruction. The authors' research-based insights and advice about selecting words and systematically presenting them to learners from all backgrounds are both practical and manageable. Teachers will delight in nurturing a language-rich classroom where students revel in language, read better and deeper, speak effectively, and write with purpose and clarity."--Mary Anne Rossbach, MEd, sixth-grade teacher, Fairfax County (Virginia) Public Schools

"It's hard to believe, but the second edition of Bringing Words to Life is even more comprehensive than the first.

Beck, McKeown, and Kucan have outdone themselves. Containing real-life examples and easy-to-implement strategies, this book is a 'must have' for vocabulary instruction. It will help teachers greatly as they work to meet the Common Core Standards."--Nancy Betler, EdD, Talent

Development Facilitator, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, North Carolina; Adjunct Professor, School of Graduate and Continuing Education, Wingate University

"Perhaps the most distinctive feature of this book is its personal touch--reading it is like having a conversation with the authors about robust vocabulary instruction. The authors share their decision making, offer warnings about potential challenges, encourage thoughtful planning, and insist on follow-through. Teachers are amply supported in their learning by the 'Your Turn' and 'You Try It' features, whether working on their own or in a course on literacy instruction. This is a book designed by teachers for teachers."--Joanne F.

Carlisle, PhD, School of Education, University of Michigan

"The book offers elementary, middle, and high school teachers concrete suggestions for choosing words and teaching them to students. New chapters in the second edition provide important updates for teachers who are data driven, who have students of varying ability levels and language backgrounds, and who focus on the

reading-writing connection. Like the first edition, this book will make a significant contribution to teacher preparation and professional development. Specific recommendations for practice are illustrated with detailed examples of teachers implementing robust vocabulary instruction in their classrooms."--Rebecca Silverman, EdD, College of Education, University of Maryland, College

Isabel L. Beck, PhD, is Professor Emerita of Education in the School of Education and Senior Scientist at the Learning Research and Development Center, both at the University of Pittsburgh. Margaret G. McKeown, PhD, is Clinical Professor of Education in the School of Education and Senior Scientist at the Learning Research and Development Center at the University of Pittsburgh. Linda Kucan, PhD, is Associate Professor in the Department of Instruction and Learning at the University of Pittsburgh School of Education.

This is the second edition of the well-regarded *Bringing Words to Life: Robust Vocabulary Instruction*. In addition to incorporating the newest research on vocabulary instruction, it now addresses the Common Core standards and the Response to Intervention (RTI) structure. A new chapter, on "Vocabulary and Writing," discusses the intuitive sense that most teachers have that a rich vocabulary improves writing, although it also notes the paucity of research on this topic. *Bringing Words to Life* makes a powerful case for the need for systematic direct instruction in vocabulary and persuasively debunks the idea that students can readily learn the meanings of new words simply from context and reading exposure. Unlike so many education texts, it is well written, with clear summaries of current research along with excellent descriptions and examples of how to carry out "robust" vocabulary instruction in the classroom. *Bringing Words to Life* encourages high expectations for even the youngest students, who can readily learn to move from the everyday (Tier One) words that they frequently encounter to what the authors call "Tier Two" words; for instance, "talking about" something can become "mention." This book won't write a teacher's lesson plans but it can fill them with ideas. Like any new curricular idea, learning to incorporate rich vocabulary takes practice, both for teachers and for students. As a practitioner of the Orton Gillingham method of dyslexia remediation, I wondered why the book makes no reference to the use of morphology (prefixes, suffixes, Latin roots, Greek combining forms) as an efficient way to expand a student's vocabulary. In response to my inquiry, one of the authors indicated that a companion book, *Creating Robust Vocabulary: Frequently Asked Questions and Extended Examples* (which I have not seen), does examine the use of morphemes. This author also indicated that she considered this to be a useful approach. Anyone who works with students who have limited vocabularies should own this book. It contains that rare combination of theory and practice that distinguishes the best books about teaching. M. Feldman

As an elementary ESL teacher, I understand the importance of teaching vocabulary. What I was not certain of, however, was the best, most meaningful approach to use. This book discusses ROBUST vocabulary instruction - and gives a routine and variety of activities to deliver the instruction. I'm only a third of the way through - it's meaty - but I'm already formulating how I will be adjusting my instruction of words according to the methods offered here. Excellent resource - one of those that I will keep going back to because it just makes sense!!!!!!!!!

... should certainly be a central goal for all reading teachers to transmit to their students. "Bring Words to Life" serves as an excellent reference for doing just that. A variety of strategies are provided to address the needs of readers across grade levels (sorry, but I disagree with those who believe that books, such as this one, should only address the needs of students at particular grade levels), that will prove useful to all teachers. Although this is a fairly short book (about 130 pages), it provides a lot of useful material. I would recommend this to anyone involved in teaching reading to children.

Quick response. Book was exactly as advertised.

I love being able to read whenever and wherever I might be. Making these books available through Kindle is very helpful. This book has many hands-on ideas to boost students' vocabulary.

I use this book for my children in a homeschool environment. When I first read this book, many of the concepts resonated true (i.e. that children guess at the meanings of words in books and often "miss the mark"). The book explains how to pull out words from the books that children are reading, and to use those words as a basis for creating vocabulary worksheets. It gives alternate ways for finding vocabulary words as well. The recommendations in this book are very specific, with several examples. It does not do the work for you - you still have to come up with your own words and worksheets. However, the examples are detailed and clear, and I found the process of creating vocabulary worksheets to be simple. The first couple of times that I created worksheets, I had the book open as I created questions, to make sure that I was not missing any important points. After that, it was a breeze. My oldest is an advanced 3rd grade, and I found the recommendations useful for her age bracket, but I fully expect to use this for many years to come, as the recommendations cross age boundaries well.

Great ideas on games you can play and other ways to reinforce vocabulary but honestly , coming up with games every week for the different vocab is too much work. The ideas are great, though, so now I'm searching for a book that already has a bunch of games and activities made for age appropriate vocab words.

In my many years of teaching, Beck is simply the best when it comes to teaching vocabulary. Many lesson plan ideas and specific titles of modeling text make it easy to begin using with little preparation time.

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