

Marko & Associates specializes in education consulting, including school in-service at all levels, corporate management training and education consulting in other fields.

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EDUCATION CONSULTANTS

NEWSLETTER

Please call us to discuss your staff concerns. We'll put together a program that will invigorate your staff and inspire passion.

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## "Inspiring Passion In Teachers"

### FROM JANE

**Welcome** to another issue of "Inspiring Passion In Teachers", our newsletter for teachers and administrators.

### How Coaching Brings Staff Development Alive

We have been creating exciting staff development programs for many schools. The most effective model consists of short 2-3 hour presentations followed by coaching days.

A coaching day takes on many different looks depending on the needs of each teacher. Sometimes it's a planning meeting. Sometimes it's a modeling a lesson with the students--allowing the teachers to see the idea in action. Or perhaps it's the teacher trying the strategy and then asking for feedback.

Teachers are always a bit nervous at first, but they quickly discover that coaching is actually fun and helpful. Coaching is true collaboration that professional teachers crave.

This kind of coaching is just the support teachers need to jump start a new strategy. Too many times great teaching ideas stay in the seminar folder and never really get used!

Marko and Associates can meet your special staff development needs by customizing in-services and coaching for your teachers and your school.

Jane Elizabeth Marko

### TEACHING STRATEGY

#### Teaching Vocabulary

Students with larger vocabularies are more successful in school. Students who read often naturally improve their vocabulary. Nagy says that 25 to 50 percent of vocabulary growth is attained through incidental learning while reading (Nagy et al. 1987). Check out this statistic:

This chart compares students ranking on standardized tests with the number of minutes they read each day and the number of words they are exposed to while reading. Simply stated, if the students read more, they learn more words and succeed on standardized tests.

Standardized testing % Rank	# of Min/Day	Words exposed to in a year
98th	67.3	4,733,000
90th	33.4	2,357,000
70th	16.9	1,168,000
50th	9.2	601,000
30th	4.3	251,000
10th	1.	51,000
2nd	0	—

Reading Quarterly, 1983. "Growth in Reading and How Children Spend Their Time Outside of School"

It is clear from these statistics when students read, they are more successful. Along with building in reading time for students, teachers must teach vocabulary directly.

Unfortunately, simply looking up words in the dictionary is not teaching vocabulary. Students need intensive vocabulary instruction and multiple exposures to a word over time. Try this simple, but effective strategy called Word Wizard.

#### Teacher Prep

- Pre-read a text and select 3 words important to student learning.
- Write one word in each Word box at the top of the matrix.
- Write the sentence where you found each word in the box below the word.
- Duplicate the Word Wizard matrix for each student and make a transparency for you to use.

#### Getting Started

- We suggest that you carefully model the first word and use a Think Aloud.
- Read the first word and read the word in context.
- Show students how you would use a thesaurus to find synonyms. The synonyms should be words with which students are familiar. [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com) is a great on-line tool.

#### Instructions To Your Students

- Use the context and your synonyms to write what you think the word means in the next box.
- Now, find the word in the dictionary and write the definition. Make sure the definition corresponds to the way the word is used.
- Next draw a picture that represents the word.
- Write a key word or phrase that will jog your memory and cue you to the word's meaning. For example, if your word is 'dilemma' your memory clue could be 'two lemons'. Di- means two, and a dilemma is two difficult, or sour, choices.

#### Variation

- Allow the students to do the next word in pairs.

Word Wizard Matrix sample →

REFERENCES

**Exciting New Book**

Become a more dynamic teacher with our exciting new book *Classroom Strategies for Dynamic Teachers*. Dr. Mary Medo and I have collected our favorite teaching strategies in an entertaining and easy-to-use format. Within minutes you can learn a strategy and try it out with your students. This book will never leave your desk!

Word Wizard, highlighted in this issue, and dozens of other great strategies can be found in *Classroom Strategies for Dynamic Teachers*, along with full size graphic templates for you to start using right away. The book is coil bound so it will lay flat as you use it in your classroom, and when you xerox the templates.

*Classroom Strategies for Dynamic Teachers* will be available in August through [www.markoandassociates.com](http://www.markoandassociates.com), as well as through select bookstores around the country. Preorders are being taken now. Just e-mail [jane@markoandassociates.com](mailto:jane@markoandassociates.com) today to reserve your copies.



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**Meet Dr. Mary Medo**

Mary Medo earned her PhD in Reading Education from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. She teaches reading methods classes at UW-Milwaukee. She also teaches content area reading and learning strategies. Mary's over 25 years as a veteran public school teacher and reading specialist lends a real-world eye to the application of the strategies in this book.



**"Some students are like cactus.** They are hard to hug, but with much care and time, they will bloom beautifully. As professional teachers, we see the beauty in all our students."



from *Teaching Vocabulary*, page 1

**Word Wizard Matrix**

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3
Word in context			
Synonyms			
What I think it means			
What it means			
Picture			
Memory Clue			

WEB WATCH

**CESA #1**

CESA #1 provides a wonderful video conference on-line, sharing cutting edge information on the importance of 21st Century Learning. Be sure to watch Ken Kay, president of Partnership of 21st Century Learning.

<http://hosted.mediasite.com/hosted4/Catalog/?cid=1eefe947-357e-4a45-91a1-34e31b7ec571>

**Partnership for 21st Century Skills**

This organization brings together the business community, education leaders, and policymakers to define a powerful vision for 21st century education.

Their mission: "To bring 21st Century Skills to every child in America by serving as a catalyst for change in teaching, learning, and assessment and as an advocate among education policy makers through a unique partnership among education, business, and government leaders."

<http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/>

**Literacy Specialist**

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