

# Characteristics of the Vocabulary Program

## Word Choices

- Words in the vocabulary program are words that have appeared several times on past SAT and PSAT tests. Words that have appeared on 13 and 14 different tests are assigned to 10<sup>th</sup> grade in preparation for the upcoming PSAT.
- Words from assigned novels and plays appear in the 1<sup>st</sup> 6 weeks of the program to prepare students for the vocabulary they will confront in those literary works. Selections include *A Tale of Two Cities*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hamlet*, *The Scarlet Letter*, *Julius Caesar*, and *Macbeth*
- Words that commonly appear in the instructions of the AP exams are assigned to the 10<sup>th</sup> grade in preparation for the upcoming AP classes and tests.

## Word List

- All words for the entire year are on one sheet of paper to be given to the student. 1<sup>st</sup> semester words are on one side; 2<sup>nd</sup> semester words are on the back side.

## Tests

- Both matching tests and sentence completion tests are available to teachers to use in the classroom. Each week 10 words are new and 10 words are from previous lessons. Both sets of tests have the same 10 new words. However, the words from previous lessons may not necessarily be the same on both tests. This affords broader random sampling of the older words.
- The teacher has the discretion of using both tests for grades or of using one test as an instructional/learning device to be used for practice while the other is used for testing.
- Teachers may use one test as the classroom test and the other as a make-up test. Teachers may use the second test if the students need another attempt at testing.
- Based upon the assumption that it may be unreasonable to expect a new student to be responsible for more than 40 words on an upcoming vocabulary test, no vocabulary lesson exceeds 4 weeks of words.  
1<sup>st</sup> 10 words are new words; 2<sup>nd</sup> 10 words are from prior lessons (generally with the following breakdown: 5 words from last week's lesson, 3 words from week before last, and 2 words from 3 weeks ago)

## Sentence Completion

- Sentence Completion tests are valuable in preparing students for standardized tests which use that particular testing format.
- Sentences are written with a form of the definition of the word in the sentence so that students will find the clues they need for answering correctly.

## Graphics

- All lessons are identifiable by grade according to the graphic on the paper. Teachers who teach multiple levels can see at a glance across the room if any student has the wrong test for the wrong grade level.