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operation lexicon
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madeleine
L'ENGLE

Sara Evans



blackbird & company

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How to Use This Guide

For the Teacher

Operation Lexicon will not only enable your student to acquire new vocabulary, but will simultaneously improve all areas of communication. Utilizing vocabulary introduced each week, students will exercise creative writing skills as they craft imaginative micro-stories. As students explore the collection of words in this Discovery Guide, they will begin to appreciate the potential of singular words!

Overview

Each week is divided into three days of word explorations that include:

- Word definitions
- Example sentences from the works of the author.
- Sentence crafting opportunities
- Copy work
- Micro-story writing opportunities

Skills Addressed

- Vocabulary acquisition
- Complex sentence writing
- Creative writing
- Contemplative attention to detail
- Handwriting practice
- Self-guided work

For the Student - Day 1 & Day 2

- **Read** the first word for the day, and its definition. If you need help with pronunciation, you have several options:
 - 1) Look up the word in a printed dictionary and refer to its phonetic notation. At first you may need help understanding the symbols, but as you practice this skill, the pronunciation symbols will become more familiar, and soon you will be able to pronounce any word you find!
 - 2) Use a computer based dictionary with audio pronunciation to help you learn the correct way to say the word.
 - 3) After trying on your own, if you're still not sure, just ask for help!
- **Copy** the word and its definition, thinking carefully about it as you write. Think about how it sounds and what it means.
- **Read** the example sentence slowly, contemplating how this word is just the right word in this particular sentence.
- **Copy** the example sentence, thinking carefully about it as you write.
- **Craft** an original sentence of your own using the word in an appropriate way.
- **Repeat** for the next word.

Day 3:

- **Choose** your favorite word from Day 1 or 2. In the space provided, write the word and the reason you chose it.
- **Create** your own 150 word micro-story using as many words as you can from Day 1 and 2. If you need help getting started, use one of the story starters found on page 2, and read the example story on page 3.

Story-starters

Having trouble getting started?

Use one of these story-starters to inspire your day 3 writing each week.

1. *THE CLOUDS SPLIT APART so suddenly...*
2. *BLUE AND GREEN RIBBONS danced...*
3. *FALLING THROUGH the rocky asteroid belt...*
4. *SHARP STONES bit my...*
5. *AROUND AND AROUND, spinning...*
6. *LIKE LACE TATTERED in the*
7. *THE SNAKE'S EYE....*
8. *WALKING THROUGH glass was...*
9. *PURPLE WATER fell...*
10. *SOMETHING GRABBED ME around...*
11. *BATS BRUSHED PAST my...*
12. *THE FROG'S TADPOLE STAGE was...*
13. *PEERING THROUGH the electron microscope...*
14. *BATTLE SOUNDS BOOMED...*
15. *I DROPPED MY POCKET KNIFE when...*
16. *ELECTRICITY ROLLED along the...*
17. *A WRINKLED FACE popped out...*
18. *FUNNY how that very old woman...*
19. *FERNS AND BRAMBLES mixed...*
20. *SUDDENLY, everything was upside down...*
21. *SHE SEEMS SO CLEVER when...*
22. *AN ICICLE dripped fast...*
23. *DARKNESS DESCENDED quickly....*
24. *HIS VOICE SOUNDED lethal as he...*
25. *COUNTING THE MOONS took...*

Week 1: Day 1

arc • *a curved shape*

Copy the word and the definition here:

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The moon was halfway up and dimmed the stars for a great arc.

(L'Engle, *A Wrinkle in Time* 56)

Copy the sentence here:

Craft a sentence of your own here:

asperity • *harsh tone*

Copy the word and the definition here:

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Mr Jenkins responded in a strange voice she had never heard before, completely unlike his usual, nasal, shrill asperity.

(L'Engle, *A Wind in the Door* 150)

Copy the sentence here:

Craft a sentence of your own here:

Week 1: Day 2

antecedents • *a person's ancestors*

Copy the word and the definition here:

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Ananda whined softly, an ordinary whine coming from an ordinary dog of questionable antecedents, a mongrel like many in the village.

(L'Engle, *A Swiftly Tilting Planet* 51)

Copy the sentence here:

Craft a sentence of your own here:

anachronism • *a thing belonging to another period than that in which it exists*

Copy the word and the definition here:

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

As Anaral gestured with her hands, Polly noticed again the Band-Aid anachronistically on Anaral's finger.

(L'Engle, *An Acceptable Time* 50)

Copy the sentence here:

Craft a sentence of your own here:
