**English/Language Arts Vocabulary for Students in Grades K-2**

Students who are in grades K through 2 will be hearing the following English/Language Arts vocabulary terms used in the classroom. Obviously, if your child is in kindergarten, not all of these terms will be presented in class. Kindergarten students who are accelerated in the area of English/language arts may be exposed to certain higher level terms in order to strengthen their knowledge of vocabulary words which they will be hearing in 1st and/or 2nd grade.

**Abbreviation** - a shortened form of a word or a phrase

**Adjective** – a part of speech that describes a person, place, thing, or idea

**Adverb** – a part of speech that describes a verb, an adjective, or another adverb

**Affix** – a group of letters added to the beginning end of a word that changes the meaning of the word

**Alliteration** – the repetition of beginning sounds of words

**Alphabetical order** - a method of arranging lists of words using the letters of the alphabet

**Analyze** - to examine by breaking a concept or idea into smaller parts

**Antonym** – a word having the opposite meaning of another word

**Apostrophe** – a punctuation mark (‘) used to show ownership or where letters are left out of a word

**Attribute** - a quality or characteristic belonging to a person or a thing

**Author** - a person who writes a book, story, play, or article

**Author’s point** – the author’s most important idea of a selection

**Author’s purpose** – the reason or reasons an author has for writing a selection

**Autobiography** – a written account of a person’s life told by that person

**Base word** – a root word to which prefixes and suffixes may be added to form a new word with a different meaning

**Beginning** - the first or earliest part of a story, poem, play, or book

**Biography** - an account of a person’s life written by another person

**Blend** – a group of two or more consonants without a vowel between; both letter sounds are heard

**Brainstorm** – an activity that produces a large number of ideas

**Capitalize** – to begin a word or group of words with uppercase or capital letters

**Caption** - a title or sentence that explains an illustration or a photograph

**Category** – a division or group within a system

**Character** – a person, thing, or animal in a story, poem, book, play, or movie

**Character trait** - a description of a character that may include physical appearance, personality speech, behavior, actions, thoughts, feelings, or interactions with other characters

**Characteristic** – a feature or attribute that helps identify or describe

**Clarification** – a statement that makes a topic easier to understand

**Closing** – the end of last part of a story, poem play, or book

**Closure** – to bring to an end

**Coherent sentence** – a sentence with connected or consistent parts

**Collaborate** - to work together or cooperate on a task

**Collective noun** – a word used to name a group of objects, animals, or people as a unit

**Comma** – a punctuation mark (,) used to separate words or groups of words in a sentence

**Comment** – a remark or written note that explains or gives an opinion

**Common noun** – a noun used to name any person, place, thing, or idea

**Compare** – to tell how two or more things or ideas are alike

**Compose** – to create or write

**Compound sentence** - two sentences joined by a conjunction to create a new sentence

**Compound word** – a new word that is formed when two words are joined

**Comprehension** – the ability to understand the meaning of something that is read or spoken

**Concept** - a general idea or understanding

**Conclusion statement/section** – the final sentence or section in a written selection or speech

**Conjunction** – a word that joins other words, phrases, or clauses

**Connection** – an association or a relationship; a link

**Consonants** – letters of the alphabet that are not vowels

**Context** – part of a text that surrounds a word or passage and makes clear its meaning

**Context clue** – a hint about the meaning of a word found by reading the other words in the sentence or paragraph

**Contraction** – a word formed by joining two or more words, replacing missing letters with an apostrophe

**Contrast** – to tell how two or more things or ideas are different

**Conversation** – a spoken exchange between two or more people

Declarative sentence – a sentence that tells something and ends with a period; a statement

**Decode** - the method or strategy used to read and pronounce words

**Definition** - the meaning of a word or phrase

**Describe** – to use words to tell or write about something

**Description** – a statement that describes

**Detail** – a small part of a whole; specific information about the main idea

**Diagram** – a chart of graph that explains something; a labeled illustration

**Dialogue** – a conversation between two or more persons

**Diary** – a dated, written record of a person’s thought, action, and feelings

**Dictionary** – a reference book containing an alphabetical listing of words, with information given for each word, including the pronunciation and meaning

**Difference** – away in which two or more things are not alike

**Digital tool** – an electronic device used to gather or produce information

**Digraph** – two or more letters that make a single sound

**Discussion** – a conversation or exchange of views

**Draft** – the rough outline or sketch of a written composition; to write ideas down on paper

**Edit** – to revise or correct a written work, checking for grammar, spelling, or punctuation errors

**Elaborate** – to give more details

**Ending** – the last or final part of a story, poem, play, or book

**Evaluate** – to make a judgment based on evidence

**Event** – a happening in a story, book play, or poem

**Evidence** – something that shows, proves, or gives reasons for making a judgment

**Exclamation point** – a punctuation mark (!) used to show strong feeling or emotion

**Exclamatory sentence** – a sentence that expresses strong feeling or emotion and ends with an exclamation point

**Explanation** – a statement that makes something clear

**Explanatory text** – a written selection intended to explain an idea, a topic, or a process

**Fable** - a story that is meant to teach a useful lesson

**Fact** - a statement that can be proven true

**Fairy tale** – a fictional story about fairies or other imaginary beings and magical events

**Features of print** – written conventions that enhance the readability of text

**Feeling** – an emotion, an attitude, or an opinion

**Fiction** – a genre of writing based on imagination and not necessarily on facts

**Final sound** – the letters sound heard at the end of a word

**Fluency** – to speak or write easily, smoothly, or readily

**Focus** – the main point or idea

**Folktale** – a story passed down orally from one generation to another by the people of a country or region

**Future tense** – a verb form used to express what will happen in the time to come

**Genre** – a category used to classify literature

**Glossary** – an alphabetical listing of words and their meanings found in the back of a book

**Graphic organizer** – a pictorial or visual way of organizing information

**Greeting** – the part of a letter that tells to whom the letter is written

**Idea** – a thought or plan carefully formed in the mind

**Illustration** – a picture, diagram, drawing, or map used to explain or decorate

**Illustrator** – an artist who produces pictures, photographs, or drawings for books, stories, or poems

**Image** – a representation of a person or a thing; a picture in the mind

**Imperative sentence** – a sentence that gives a command

**Indefinite pronoun** - a word that refers to or takes the place of an unspecified person, place, or thing

**Inflectional ending** – an affix added to a word to change its meaning

**Information** – knowledge or facts learned about a subject

**Informational/informative text** – a selection written to inform

**Initial sound** - the first sound a word

**Interrogative sentence** – a sentence that asks a question and ends with a question mark

**Irregular plural noun** – a plural noun that is not formed by adding –s

**Irregular verb** – a verb that does not follow common patterns in forming the past tense

**Issue** – a topic of discussion

**Journal** – a personal record of responses to reading, issues, or events

**Key detail/idea** – the single most important part of a whole or a thought

**Lesson** – a principle the author intends to teach the reader

**Linking word** – a word that joins other words, phrases, or clauses; a conjunction

**Literature** – written words of recognized value

**Long vowel** – a vowel that is pronounced as the name of the letter

**Major event** – the most important thing that happens

**Main idea** – the most important thought or message in a paragraph or story

**Main topic** – the subject of a text

**Meaning** – the purpose of significance of spoken or written words

**Media** – a way of communicating information

**Medial sound** – the letter sound heard in the middle of a word

**Message** - the point, moral, or meaning of a story, poem play, or book

**Middle** - the section of a story, poem, play, or book between the beginning and the ending

**Moral** – a lesson learned from a story or an event

**Multi-paragraph** - two or more paragraphs written about the same topic

**Multiple-meaning word** - a word that has more than one meaning

**Narrate** – to tell a story in speech or in writing

**Nonfiction** – a genre of writing that tells about real people, places or events

**Noun** – a part of speech that names a person, place, thing, or idea

**Onset-rime** – the part of a syllable that precedes the vowel

**Opinion piece** – writing that gives one’s belief based on thoughts or feelings rather than facts

**Opposite** – someone or something that is complete different from another

**Order of events** – the arrangement or sequence of happenings

**Paragraph** - group of sentences that support a main idea

**Paraphrase** – to retell or restate in one’s own words

**Passage** – a part of a written work

**Past tense** – a form of a verb describing action that happened at an earlier time

**Period** – a punctuation mark (.) used at the end of a sentence or an abbreviation

**Personal pronoun** – a word that replaces the name of people or things

**Phoneme** – a unit of sound

**Phrase** – a group of words that has meaning but is not a complete sentence

**Plot** – the actions or events in a story, book, movie, or play

**Plural** – the form of a noun that shows more than one person, place, or thing

**Poem/poetry** – a composition written in verse that often uses rhythm and/or rhyme

**Point** – the most important idea

**Point of view** – the way an author tells a story

**Possessive** – the form of a word that shows ownership

**Predict** – to state what a person thinks will happen in the future

**Prefix** – a word part added to the beginning of a root word that changes its meaning

**Preposition** – a word that relates a noun or pronoun to another word in the sentence

**Present tense** – a form of a verb that describes action that is happening now

**Produce** - to create or make

**Pronoun** - a word that takes the place of a noun

**Proper noun** – the name of a specific person, place, or thing

**Prose** – the ordinary form of spoken or written language; not poetry

**Publish** – the final step in the writing process when the writer shares the work with others

**Punctuation** – marks or symbols used to make the meaning of written material clear

**Question** – a sentence that asks for information

**Question mark** – a punctuation mark (?) used at the end of an interrogative sentence

**Real-life connection** – a link between new information and prior knowledge or life experiences

**Reason** – a cause for acting, thinking, or feeling a certain way

**Recall** - to bring back to mind; remember

**Recount** – to tell in detail

**Reference** –material that provides information

**Reflexive pronoun** – a pronoun with a suffix or –self or –selves

**Regular verb** – a verb in which the past tense is formed by adding –ed

**Remark** – a casual statement or comment

**Research** – careful investigation or study of a topic

**Retell** – to say, state, or perform again

**Revise** – a step in the writing process used to correct or improve the original work

**Rhyme** – to have the same or similar ending sounds

**Rhythm** – a repeating pattern of sound found in poems and songs

**Root word** – a base word to which prefixes and suffixes may be added, forming a new word with a different meaning

**Sentence** - a group of words that expresses a complete thought

**Sequence of events** – the order in which things happen in a story

**Series** – similar things or events in a row

**Setting** - the time and place of a story

**Shades of meaning** – subtle differences in meaning between similar words or phrases

**Short vowel** – the five single letters that produce the following: /a/ as in *apple*, /e/ as in *egg*, /i/ as in *igloo*, /o/ as in *octopus*, /u/ as in *umbrella*

**Sight word** – a word that is known automatically by a reader

**Similarity** – a way in which two or more things are alike

**Simple sentence**- a sentence with a subject and verb that creates a complete thought

**Singular** – the form of a noun that names one person, place, or thing

**Source** – a person, place, or thing that provides information

**Spelling** – a group of letters representing a word

**Step** - an action to achieve a goal

**Story** – a narrative, either real or imaginary, designed to interest, amuse, or instruct the listener or reader

**Suffix** – a word part added to the end of a root word that changes its meaning

**Syllable** – a word or part of a word that has a single vowel sound

**Temporal word** – a word that signals order of events

**Text** - the actual words in a written selection

**Text feature** - an element that stands out from other parts of text to help the reader understand information

**Text purpose** – the author’s intention or desired result for the text

**Theme** – the main idea or most important idea of a written selection

**Thought** – an idea formed in the mind

**Title** – the name given to a book, painting, song, poem, or other work

**Title page** - the page in a book that names the title, the author, the publisher, and the publication place and date

**Topic** – the main thought or subject of a written work

**Type of text** – the category of text determined by its purpose features, and language

**Verb** – a part of speech that expresses action or state of being

**Visual display** – a presentation or an arrangement of data that can be viewed

**Vowel team** – a combination of vowels that produces one sound

**Vowels** – the letters a, e, i, o, u, and sometimes y in the alphabet

**Word** – a unit of language consisting of one or more spoken sounds or their written representation

Phew! Have you ever seen so many vocabulary terms? Although there are many words listed above, please know that understanding the meaning of these words will significantly help in strengthening your child’s development in the area of English/Language Arts!



Mrs. Penny