

## TEAM TOOL 5.8

**Wondering About Words Inquiry****PURPOSE**

As experienced readers, teachers automatically incorporate a number of strategies for approaching unfamiliar vocabulary. This inquiry reminds them of what they do, and what their students might learn to do.

**PROCEDURE**

1. With an unfamiliar text that includes a range of unfamiliar vocabulary, team members Talk to the Vocabulary, using the following questions to guide their responses.
  - What words are new or partially known to you? What did you do to make meaning of them?
  - Which words do you recognize as having multiple meanings? How did you figure out the “right” meaning?
  - Which words have familiar parts but the meaning is unknown to you or appears to be inconsistent with your knowledge of the parts?
  - Which words do you think you understand the gist of even if you don’t know their actual definitions?
  - Are there unfamiliar phrases or expressions that contain individual words that are familiar to you? What did you do to make meaning of them?
  - Are there words that might have Greek or Latin roots or Spanish language cognates?
2. As a group, team members share the words they attacked and how they made sense of them, learning from one another’s strategies.