

Vocabulary

The books in *Joel's Library Jam* may contain words that are unfamiliar to some children. On these pages you will find help in teaching the children new vocabulary. These "starter" definitions give you ideas of how to explain the conceptual meaning of vocabulary words. Please add in your own ideas and explanations. We encourage you to look for other words in the books to discuss with the children, to build their vocabulary skills.

Alphabet Mystery

crooked– curved or bent
miserable– very unhappy or uncomfortable
mystery– something that is hard to figure out; something puzzling or unknown

Big Bad Wolf

snout– an animal's nose

Black Cat

bodega– a small grocery store
graffiti– words or pictures painted on walls or buildings, usually without permission
halo– a round ring of light
neon– brightly colored lights that seem to glow at night
projects– housing projects; apartment buildings in the city
saunter– to walk slowly or at your own pace
tag– in this book, a symbol drawn in graffiti

Book! Book! Book!

amble– to move easily and slowly, or at your own pace
announce– to tell everyone; to say something loudly
plod– to walk as if it is difficult to move; to walk slowly
ruffle– to run fingers through something back and forth

Eating Fractions

fraction– a piece; a portion of a whole item

Eli's Night-Light

coal– a fuel that looks like a black rock; usually burned for heat
night-light– a small light usually used at night to

keep a room from being completely dark
yawn– open widely

Growing Vegetable Soup

broccoli– a type of vegetable that is green and grows in bunches
sprout(s)– to begin to grow; also small, young plants
zucchini– a type of vegetable – a squash – that is green and has a long shape

A House is a House for Me

Note: Be sure to talk with children about the different dwellings and who or what lives there; there are many possible vocabulary words in this book!

dwelling– a place where someone or something lives
fold– a flock, or group, of sheep or other animals

Loretta: Ace Pinky Scout

aerodynamic(s)– designed to move easily through the air; the science of air flow
bench-press– using weights on a bar as a form of exercise
beret– a soft, round, flat woolen cap, often thought of as being worn by French people
blowtorch– a tool that makes great heat; used to heat metal; can start a fire
floss– to clean between teeth with dental string
merit badge– a badge earned for doing a job or learning something new
portrait– a painting, photograph, or drawing of a person, especially of the face

Mama Zooms

wheelchair– a chair on wheels that helps people move when they are unable to walk
zoom– to move very quickly