



## No More "Look Up the List" Vocabulary Instruction (Not This But That)

By Charlene Cobb, Camille Blachowicz

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*"Just as word learning is incremental, so is learning about vocabulary instruction. Teachers need exposure to research, best-practice strategies, and fellow practitioners."*

**-Charlene Cobb and Camille Blachowicz**

The way we've learned influences the way we teach, but the vocabulary instruction many of us received-looking up words and writing sentences or completing worksheets- just doesn't work. So what can we do instead?

*No More "Look Up the List" Vocabulary Instruction* is your guide to engaging, research-proven practices for teaching words effectively. Practitioner Charlene Cobb and researcher Camille Blachowicz share why old-fashioned methods don't work, what the research shows does work, and how to put the research into action.

Charlene and Camille answer teachers' most commonly asked questions about vocabulary instruction, including:

- How many words, and how do I select them?
- How can I foster student independence using dictionaries and glossaries?
- How do I find time for meaningful vocabulary instruction?
- How can I assess and hold students accountable?

"Without practice in the full range of ways we use a word," write Charlene and Camille, "our word knowledge is limited and falls from our grasp as the next cycle of words enters." *No More "Look Up the List" Vocabulary Instruction* offers a solution-deepen students' engagement with words, increase their exposure to them, and expand their word knowledge.



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### **Editorial Review**

#### **About the Author**

Charlene Cobb is coauthor of the Heinemann title No More Look Up the List Vocabulary Instruction, part of the Not This, But That series edited by Nell K. Duke and Ellin Oliver Keene. She is Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning in East Maine School District 63, in Des Plaines, Illinois. She has worked in the area of literacy for over twenty years as a teacher, reading specialist, professor, and consultant. Charlene has worked nationally with schools and districts to support literacy programs and is particularly interested in the literacy development of linguistically diverse learners and struggling readers. She has contributed several articles to the International Reading Association journal, *The Reading Teacher* and has coauthored two books on the topics of literacy and vocabulary.

Nell K. Duke, Ed.D., is a professor of language, literacy, and culture and faculty associate in the combined program in education and psychology at the University of Michigan. Duke received her Bachelor's degree from Swarthmore College and her Masters and Doctoral degrees from Harvard University. Duke's work focuses on early literacy development, particularly among children living in poverty. Her specific areas of expertise include development of informational reading and writing in young children, comprehension development and instruction in early schooling, and issues of equity in literacy education. She currently serves as Co-Principal Investigator on projects funded by the Institute of Education Sciences, the National Science Foundation, and the Spencer Foundation. Duke is the recipient of the American Educational Research Association Early Career Award, the Literacy Research Association Early Career Achievement Award, the International Reading Association Dina Feitelson Research Award, the National Council of Teachers of English Promising Researcher Award, and the International Reading Association Outstanding Dissertation Award. Nell is author and co-author of numerous journal articles and book chapters as well as the books *Reading and Writing Informational Text in the Primary Grades: Research-Based Practices*; *Literacy and the Youngest Learner: Best Practices for Educators of Children from Birth to Five*; *Beyond Bedtime Stories: A Parent's Guide to Promoting Reading, Writing, and Other Literacy Skills From Birth to 5*; and her most recent book, *Reading and Writing Genre with Purpose in K - 8 Classrooms*. She is also editor of *The Research-Informed Classroom* book series, co-editor with Ellin Keene of the Not This But That book series, and co-editor of the book *Literacy Research Methodologies*. Duke teaches preservice, inservice and doctoral courses in literacy education, speaks and consults widely on literacy education, and is an active member of several literacy-related organizations. She has served as author and consultant on a number of educational programs, including Buzz About IT, iOpeners, National Geographic Science K-2 and the DLM Express. Duke also has a strong interest in improving the quality of educational research training in the U.S. Nell is currently overseeing IRA's Literacy Research Panel blog, which you can follow here: <http://www.reading.org/general/Publications/blog/LRP>

Camille Blachowicz is coauthor of the Heinemann title No More Look Up the List Vocabulary Instruction, part of the Not This, But That series edited by Nell K. Duke and Ellin Oliver Keene. Camille is Professor Emeritus at National Louis University where she is Codirector of The Reading Leadership Institute, a professional learning network of literacy staff developers. She is also Co-Principal investigator of the Multifaceted Comprehensive Vocabulary Instruction Program. She has researched, written, and presented extensively on the topic of vocabulary instruction which is the subject of three of her books. Camille was a Fulbright and Spencer Fellow and editor of the *Journal of Reading Behavior*. She was named to the roster of Outstanding Teacher Educators in Reading by the International Reading Association and is a member of the Reading Hall of Fame.

Ellin is author of Talk About Understanding: Rethinking Classroom Talk to Enhance Understanding, To Understand: New Horizons in Reading Comprehension, co-author of Comprehension Going Forward and of Mosaic of Thought: The Power of Comprehension Strategy Instruction, 2nd edition as well as numerous chapters for professional books and journals on the teaching of reading as well as education policy journals. Ellin Oliver Keene has been a classroom teacher, staff developer, non-profit director and adjunct professor of reading and writing. For sixteen years she directed staff development initiatives at the Denver-based Public Education & Business Coalition. She served as Deputy Director and Director of Literacy and Staff Development for the Cornerstone Project at the University of Pennsylvania for 4 years. Ellin currently serves as Director of Research and Development for the PEBC, as senior advisor to Heinemann Professional Development and works with schools and districts throughout the country and abroad. Ellin Oliver Keene is a Heinemann Professional Development provider. She presents Heinemann One-Day Workshops, Webinars Series, and all forms of On-Site PD. She is most sought after for her long-term professional development residencies in partnership with Heinemann Professional Development. For an overview of the Keene Residency »

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