

Introduction

Dear Teachers,

Thank you for being a part of our incredible community of educators. Our work is not only important but essential. I stand in awe of my peers and the ideas, passion, and dedication brought to classrooms each day. I am inspired to be a part of a larger, global community of educators who dedicate themselves to making a real difference and creating a future filled with promise and possibility. I see and recognize your thoughtful approach to teaching and learning.

You do an incredible amount to support the students you learn beside. I know the time you put in before and after each school day. I admire your professionalism, expertise, and constant interest in growing. I understand your desire for guidance, ideas, and conversation—not a script—to jump-start and propel classroom learning. I hear you when you say that there is more you could do and would want to do—if you had the time and resources. This book is here to lend a hand. Across these pages, you will find resources to help you implement a stepped-up approach to word learning. Cover to cover, you will find materials that support thoughtful decision making and instructional choices. In the pages to come, you will find tools to help students drive their own learning and create their own successes. As a result, your time in the classroom will not be spent intervening to provide reminders and redirection. Instead, you will be freed up to spend those precious minutes providing meaningful feedback and modeling next steps. I hope after reading about best practices in *Word Study That Sticks* that you find these additional go-to resources help you create, customize, and carry out a more playful, collaborative, and inquiry-driven approach to word study.

Enjoy the active exploration of words with classroom learners! Let me know how it goes!

With great respect and admiration,
Pamela Koutrakos