What are Text Sets?

A text set builds knowledge on a particular topic. It is a carefully selected sequence of resources, with a choice of two activities (Rolling Knowledge or Rolling Vocabulary) to help learn from each resource and to summarize that learning.

Structure

A text set is designed to be encountered in the order given. Each resource contributes to 'learning worth remembering' for the reader. Each resource builds on the one before. The information from resource to resource overlaps:

- What is known helps connect to what is new.
- We enjoy encountering something we already understand, especially when it helps to understand the world.
- Repetition is key to learning new academic vocabulary, especially those words learned indirectly from reading and not from direct instruction.

GLE Range? Text Complexity?

While a text set is geared towards a certain range of readers, resources within that set may be at easier or harder levels, and texts may have differing levels of complexity. Note that "text" could be audio, video, or graphic as well as literal text. The main focus is building knowledge.

When to use them?

What do your students need to know so that they can all access central topics and learning experiences? What could students work on independently within class? What can they learn outside when limited class time does not permit engaging with all topics? Text Sets can be part of teacher-led whole group experiences or adapted for independent use within and outside of class, depending on your needs.

Pre-Teaching

On first introducing text sets, you will need to model and support the use of the accompanying activities, *Rolling Knowledge* and *Rolling Vocabulary*.

Specific skills include (but are not limited to):
- Reading (or listening to or watching) and comprehending "text"
- Determining main ideas, getting the gist
- Paraphrasing
- Summarizing
- Creating sentences using vocabulary words

Look up specific leveled skills in the CCR Standards for Adult Education under these anchor standards: Reading 1, Reading 2, Reading 10, and Language 6.

The Massachusetts Collection
https://www.sabes.org/content/text-sets
These text sets were created by Massachusetts adult education practitioners, based on the Expert Pack Text Set model at Achieve the Core, with guidance and support from College and Career Readiness Standards-in-Action mentors.

Each text set:

- Is created for a specific GLE range

- Centers on a single topic

- Is sequenced to support students in building vocabulary and knowledge

- Is designed to be completed with increasing independence by students

Each text set contains:

1. A chart of resources, with titles, sources, and reasons for inclusion

2. A glossary of student-friendly definitions for selected Tier 2 (academic vocabulary) words from the resources

3. Models of two activities to choose from, for learners to complete after engaging with each resource: Rolling Knowledge OR Rolling Vocabulary

4. Sample answers for the two activities

Based at Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester, Massachusetts, the SABES PD Center for ELA Curriculum & Instruction provides state-wide high-quality PD and support for adult education programs on topics related to ELA instruction, curriculum, and standards.

We can support you in learning how to use text sets, creating text sets, or teaching your students how to create text sets. Contact the ELA center's director, Merilee Freeman, at:

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https://www.sabes.org/pd-center/ela