Improving Literacy with **Semantic Reasoning**

All 56 million K12 students can benefit from improved vocabulary knowledge and semantic reasoning.

**Typical Development**

- **Home:** Language-rich environment
  - Age: 1-4
  - Priming the brain's language centers

- **School:** Builds on existing strengths
  - Age: 5-8
  - Oral language
  - Decoding and comprehension skills
  - "The pets became weary..."

- **Independent reading:**
  - Age: 9+
  - Hearing more complex words and ideas
  - Learning how to read
  - Deepening understanding of nuanced words
  - Learning 2,000-3,000 new words per year
  - Comprehending sophisticated text

**Typical Instruction**

- **Rote memorization of definitions**
  - Vocabulary learned
    - Breadth
    - Depth

- **Devour books and examples**
  - Avid readership
  - 40-50,000 words learned

**Obstacles**

- **Limited dominant language exposure**
- **Reading acquisition**
  - Poor decoding
  - Lack of engagement
  - Reading avoidance

- **Language/learning difficulties**
- **English language learning**
  - Students often struggle to learn, retain, and connect word meanings
  - It can take 7+ years to become bilingual/biliterate

**Using Semantic Reasoning**

- **Visuals and context...**
  - Are used to teach language

- **Active engagement**
  - Questioning
  - Critical thinking

- **Deep learning**
  - In a fraction of the time

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