PURPOSE: This strategy builds students' knowledge of vocabulary in a text by linking word meanings that students know with new words they may encounter.

Strategy 1 Instructions – Semantic Gradients

TEACHER PREPARATION
1. Select a key idea from the story.
2. Determine the various words, known words and new words, that are synonyms and antonyms of the key idea word (start with 8-10 words). REMEMBER to connect known ideas with various words related to these ideas.
3. Put each word on an index card.

WITH THE STUDENT
1. Teach the student the process of gradation. For instance, ask the student to put these words in order, from one extreme to the other: Hot, Cold, Warm, Icy
2. Have the student complete the same process with the list of generated words.
3. Student can add these words to a word study notebook (see sample).
4. Ask the student new related words.

Student-friendly definitions can be found at

http://www.learnersdictionary.com/definition/evidence

Happy – Sad	Hot – Cold	Nice – Mean	Small – Big	Holler – Whisper	Harm – Help
Exuberant					
Elated					
Joyful					
Happy					
Mellow					
Melancholy					
Blue					
Sad					
Devastated					

Hot	**Cold**
Warm	**Icy**