What Are The High Leverage Words For Reading?

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ABSTRACT

The relationship between word knowledge and reading comprehension is well documented across ages in the research literature. However, little empirical work has been done to identify which words are most closely connected to general reading comprehension skill. The current study examines the relationship between adolescent English-speaking students' reading comprehension and their knowledge of particular vocabulary items. Each item was coded for difficulty and item-rest correlations. Each target word was coded for frequency, dispersion, polysemy and other common word-level metrics. Multivariate regression analyses both confirm some well-known intuitions about vocabulary learning, and extend what we know about this important topic.