

# Habits of Thinking

a routine of behavior repeated regularly that tends to occur subconsciously

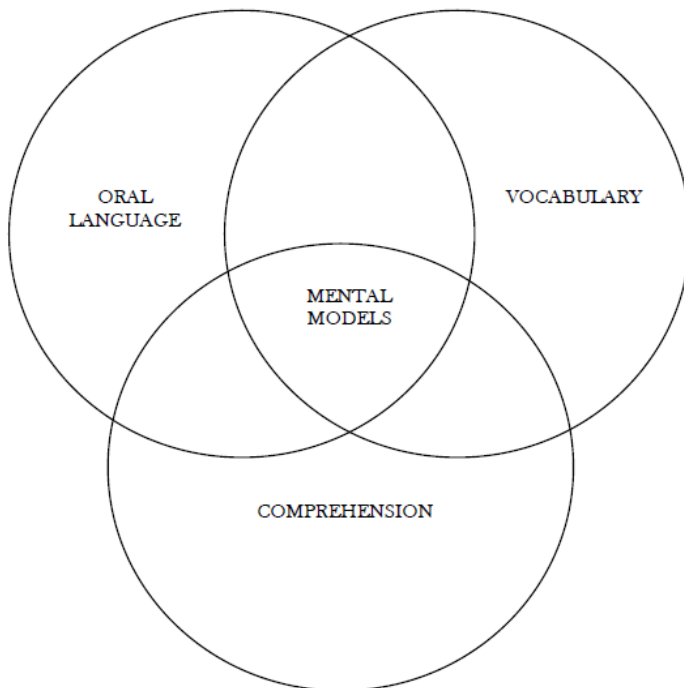
A practitioner in habits of systems thinking...

**Considers how MENTAL MODELS affect the current reality and the future.\***

\*waterscenterst.org

- A systems thinker considers how both oral and written language impact the mental models already in place by students for words and ideas AND makes adjustments in instruction to clarify or build appropriate mental models.
- An emphasis on mental models as part of instruction maximized the potential for learning in the areas of oral language, vocabulary, and comprehension.
- Because mental models are integral to oral language, vocabulary, and comprehension, ignoring students' mental models can inhibit or prolong learning in one or more of these critical areas.

MODEL FOR MAXIMUM  
INSTRUCTIONAL IMPACT



Consider the following vocabulary words. What are your mental models in terms of math and science? What if students have a different mental model?

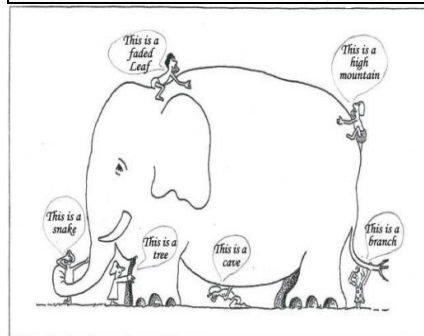
BASE	DEGREE
EVEN	FOOT
MEAN	ODD
PERIOD	PRODUCT
TABLE	YARD

How could a flawed mental model of the words below affect a student's understanding of character, setting, or theme in a story or text?

FATHER	MOTHER
TEACHER	SCHOOL
FAMILY	PETS
STORM	POLICE

Other content areas? You aren't immune to an incorrect mental model being applied...

BRUSH	BAR
RIGHT	NET
POINT	SPACE
NOTE	MILK



6 blind men describe an elephant (old Indian fable)

Teachers must also consider how the sensory experiences of students impact mental models. Or how their own experiences impact their mental models of students. It goes both ways.

A COLLABORATIVE PROJECT OF  
AUBURN CITY SCHOOLS & LEE COUNTY SCHOOLS