

Task: Meanings



Approach: One to one
Focus: Word knowledge
Resources: "Meanings" card

Year: 4 & 8

Questions / instructions:

Show "Meanings" card to the student.

You can see that there is a word in each of these sentences that is underlined. I'm going to read each sentence to you, then ask you to try to tell me the meaning of the underlined word. Try to work out its meaning from the rest of the sentence.

Meanings

The teacher was adamant that she would not change her mind.

There was much jollification at the Christmas party.

The winner received accolades for her victory in the difficult competition.

If she procrastinates much more, we'll never get it done.

It is ludicrous to think that those pink pigs will fly.

The boy's gluttony meant that there wasn't enough food left for the others.

Sufficiently accurate definitions:

– adamant:	certain, sure, determined, firm, definite, etc.	60	79
– jollification:	fun, enjoyment, laughter, good times, etc.	71	83
– accolades:	bestowals of praise, trophies, congratulations, etc.	60	79
– procrastinates:	postpones, prolongs, delays, etc.	15	39
– ludicrous:	silly, ridiculous, laughably absurd, etc.	33	64
– gluttony:	greedy for food, etc.	26	47

Total score:	5–6	9	38
	4	19	27
	3	28	19
	2	23	9
	1	12	5
	0	9	2

Commentary:

About twice as many year 8 as year 4 students (55 percent versus 28 percent) defined at least four of the six words reasonably accurately.

Task: Smarties



Approach: Station
Focus: Comprehension
Resources: Recording book

Year: 4 & 8

Questions / instructions:

How Smarties are Made.

Smarties have a chocolate centre. To make the centre, chocolate is taken from a storage tank and melted. The melted chocolate is then poured between two very cold metal rollers. The rollers squash the chocolate into round shapes. These are cooled and the edges are smoothed off. The chocolate centres are now ready for the coloured coating.

Smarties come in eight different colours. All the Smarties are coated in sugar, syrup and flour. The Smarties are dried to stop them sticking together. Then each Smartie is coloured and polished to make it bright and shiny.

The different coloured Smarties are mixed together and packaged into boxes to sell in shops.

Put a circle around the best answer.

		% responses	
		y4	y8
1. The chocolate in the storage tank needs to be:			
	<input checked="" type="radio"/> a. heated	35	56
	b. cooled		
	c. stirred		
	d. squashed		
2. The round chocolate shapes are made using:			
	a. a chocolate squirter		
	b. a sieve		
	<input checked="" type="radio"/> c. rollers	72	91
	d. a cutter		
3. All the Smarties are covered with:			
	a. more chocolate		
	<input checked="" type="radio"/> b. sugar, syrup and flour	72	91
	c. water		
	d. polish		
4. How many different Smarties are there?			
	a. 6		
	b. 7		
	c. 12		
	<input checked="" type="radio"/> d. 8	71	90
5. Smarties are polished to:			
	a. clean them		
	b. stop them sticking		
	<input checked="" type="radio"/> c. make them shiny	56	80
	d. protect them		

Total score:	5	20	44
	4	30	35
	3	17	12
	2	12	4
	1	11	4
	0	10	1



Commentary:

The first question was more challenging, probably because it involved inference. About 50 percent of year 4 and 80 percent of year 8 students got no more than one question wrong.