Because...
Literacy Skills / Vocabulary

Materials
1. Sentence strips

Procedure
1. Prepare simple sentences using a vocabulary word from a recently read text and ending with “because...”

2. Have students complete the sentences, expanding on the meaning of the vocabulary word. For example, "Jack said that it was a 'blustery' day because..."

Virginia SOLs
1.2, 2.2, 3.2
Paired Questions
Literacy Skills / Vocabulary

Materials
1. Sentence strips and pocket chart
2. Yes and no (smile/frown) cards for each pair of questions

Virginia SOLs
1.7, 1.9, 2.8

Procedure
1. Identify new vocabulary in a selected text.

2. Using these words, develop paired questions. One question should yield an affirmative answer, the other a negative answer. Write the questions on the board or sentence strips (sentence strips allow for easy transfer to a literacy work station). For example, using a book about the rainforest, you might pose the following paired questions that help define the habitat’s characteristics, “Is the rainforest a Coatis’ habitat? Is the rainforest a raccoons’ habitat?” As you can see, these questions use important vocabulary from the text that aides in comprehension. A Coatis is related to a raccoon, but is unique to the rainforest. In this example, the word habitat is also emphasized.

3. Students read the selected text.

4. Write the paired sentences on the board.

5. Read the sentences aloud. Allow students time to think independently and even look back in the text. Select a student to place the yes and no cards with the correct sentence.
The Context Game
Literacy Skills / Vocabulary

Virginia SOLs
K.2, 1.2, 2.2, 3.2

Procedure
1. Choose a new vocabulary word that is appropriate for grade level.
2. Describe to students what the word means and use it in a sentence.
3. Ask students to describe this word in context by explaining how, why, and in what situation they would use the vocabulary word.
4. Example: Describe a situation in which someone might be 'dazed'.