Explicit teaching of synonym use and paraphrasing skills will lead to improved reading comprehension in a group of Year 7 boys.

**Teaching sequence paraphrasing**

**Using Paraphrasing strategy (Munro 2006).**

**Session 1.**

**Teacher script:** I am going to teach you something that you can do that will help you remember what you read. It is called paraphrasing. This is what you do. After you have read each sentence, you say it in your own words. Today we will do this with sentences, then move on to pairs of sentences then with paragraphs.

Teacher/ students read aloud the first paragraph.

Now will we look at some of the words in the paragraph and try and think of some words that have a similar meaning to the words. These words are called synonyms.

Students use the worksheet provided to suggest some synonyms for the words provided.

*Look at the first sentence. I will read it and I want you to read it to with me. Then I will try saying it another way. After that I will ask you to try.*

Sentence 1. “There is no easy way to say this, so I’ll just say it straight out.” Could be changed to “this is not simple to say, so I’ll just get to the point.”

Students to provide their own suggested paraphrase.

Sentence 2.

*I am fourteen years old and I have Ishmael Leseur’s Syndrome. Could be changed to; I am fourteen I have a condition called Ishmael Leseur’s Syndrome.*

Students to provide their own suggested paraphrase.

Sentence 3.

*“Now as far as I know, I’m the only recorded case of Ishmael Leseur’s Syndrome in the world”. Could be changed to; “To my knowledge, I am the only person who has ever had this condition.”*

Students to provide their own suggested paraphrase.

Sentence 4.

*“In fact, the medical profession has probably never heard of Ishmael Leseur’s Syndrome.” Could be changed to; “Doctors don’t even know about this condition.”*

Students to provide their own suggested paraphrase.

Sentence 5.
“But it’s real believe me.” Could be changed to; “It really is a true problem.”

Students to provide their own suggested paraphrase.

Sentence 6.
“The Problem is, though, who would believe me?” Could be changed to; “Trouble is everyone thinks it is not true.”

Students to provide their own suggested paraphrase.

In small groups of 2 or 3 students, write a paraphrase of each sentence.

Using a similar script and teaching program to above the following sessions will be modified as follows (based on John Munro’s paraphrasing strategy).

Session 2.
Teacher/student read aloud each paragraph.
Identify key words and suggest synonyms.
Teacher/student paraphrase sentence by sentence in whole group activity
In groups of 2 or 3 write a paraphrase of each sentence.

Session 3.
Teacher/student read aloud each paragraph.
Identify key words and suggest synonyms.
Teacher/student paraphrase pairs of sentences in whole group activity
In groups of 2 or 3 write a paraphrase of each sentence.

Session 4.
Students read aloud each paragraph.
Identify key words and suggest synonyms.
Students paraphrase pairs of sentences in whole group activity
In groups of 2 or 3 write a paraphrase for pairs of sentences.

Session 5.
Students read aloud each paragraph.
Identify key words and suggest synonyms.
Students paraphrase paragraph in whole group activity.
In groups of 2 or 3 write a paraphrase of each paragraph.

Session 6.
Students read aloud each paragraph.
Identify key words and suggest synonyms.
Teacher/student paraphrase sentence by sentence in whole group activity
Each student individually writes a paraphrase of each sentence.

Session 7.
Student read silently each paragraph.
Identify key words and suggest synonyms.
Teacher/student paraphrase paragraph in whole group activity
In groups of 2 or 3 write a paraphrase of each paragraph.
Session 8.
Student read silently each paragraph.
Identify key words and suggest synonyms.
Teacher/student paraphrase paragraph in whole group activity
Each student individually writes a paraphrase of each paragraph.

Session 9.
Student read silently each paragraph.
Identify key words and suggest synonyms.
Each student paraphrases each paragraph silently
Each student individually writes a paraphrase of each paragraph.
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