Teaching year 2 students to paraphrase and use synonyms improves literal comprehension.

TEACHING OUTLINES

Lesson 1
Synonym matching game.
Saying a word in another way.
Each student was given 3 words to say another word to mean the same thing.
Each student was given 3 words on flashcards and they had to say another word for the word. The students alternate word was written on a flashcard.

Lesson 2
Paraphrasing sentences.
Saying a sentence in another way to mean the same thing.
Each student was given a sentence written on a sentence strip. They had to find a sentence that meant the same thing from a group of sentences on sentence strips.
This was repeated 3 times.
Each student was given a simple one idea sentence. They had to say the sentence in another way. The students sentence was written on a sentence strip.

Lesson 3
Teacher reads: ‘My Best Friends’
Selected vocab was written on a chart.
Students asked to say other words for this word.
Selected sentences were written on sentence strips.
Students have a discussion about the sentence.
Students asked to say the sentence in another way. Using words from the synonym chart.
Students response was written on sentence strip.
Each student repeated paraphrasing a sentence 2-3 times. Re-read text. Re-read paraphrased sentences.
Review strategy: after I read I can stop and think about the sentence I have just read and say it another way. This helps me to understand what I am reading.

Lesson 4
Review the strategy
Re-read 1st paragraph of ‘Best Friends’
Re-read paraphrased sentences.
Read 2nd paragraph of ‘Best Friends’
Repeat steps 1-10 for each lesson.

The following 6 sessions all followed the sequence of lessons 3 and 4. a two paragraph text was used. The text was used on two consecutive days with a different paragraph.
The texts were from ‘Comet Magazine’

Lesson 5 and 6 – ‘Hermit House’
Lesson 7 and 8 – ‘We love Camping’