Explicit teaching in vocabulary development using synonyms to year 3 and 4 students assists in developing comprehension at the whole text.

Lesson 1:
Aim: to recognize the difference between synonyms and antonyms.
Time: 30 – 40 minutes
Using the words from Synonym Snap write some of them on the whiteboard in the first of 3 columns.
In the second column children give you other words that mean the same.
In the third column children give you a word that means the opposite.
Label the second column Synonym. Label the third Column Antonyms.
Discuss with children the differences.

Lesson 2:
Aim: to use the words from Synonym Snap and to find out why they are matches.
Time: 30-40 minutes
Using the words from Synonym Snap – blue tac them on the whiteboard.
Begin with matching words that belong together.
Discuss the match – why is it the same?
Give children a set of cards and they play Synonym Snap game. The winner aiming to get as many matches as possible.
Children replay game.

Lesson 3 & 4
Aim: to reword short pieces of text.
Time: 30 – 40 minutes
Using an enlarged piece of simple Text “For Sale”
Read through with whole group underline specific words you wish to target.
Work through as a group the meaning of the first sentence and discuss the underlined word.
Choose a number of synonyms that would work in place of the underline word.
Write out that sentence – does it still say the same as the original?

Lesson 4:

Using the same text as the previous lesson work on the next sentence together
Then allow the children time to complete the last two sentences.
Children share their results to the whole group.

Lesson 5 & 6

Aim: Preparing to read a text. Pre-Reading Strategy – Vocabulary Previews
Time: 30-40 minutes

Using an enlarged piece of text from “Blabbermouth” by Morris Gleitzman
Highlight words we don’t know –
Find Synonyms for the underlined words
Rephrase the sentence now using the new synonym – does it make sense.

These 2 lessons should be taught more than just twice.

Lesson 7:

Aim: To complete a synonym crossword.
Time: 30 – 40 minutes.

Look at the Clues for each word on Synonym Crossword
Discussion how can we work out the words – make a list of possible answers
Give each child their own crossword sheet to complete.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>big</th>
<th>large</th>
<th>little</th>
<th>small</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>hit</td>
<td>bash</td>
<td>see</td>
<td>look</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nice</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>fast</td>
<td>quick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sad</td>
<td>unhappy</td>
<td>above</td>
<td>over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>below</td>
<td>under</td>
<td>sick</td>
<td>ill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dirt</td>
<td>soil</td>
<td>icy</td>
<td>cold</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*YN ONYM ACTIVITY SHEET*
Across

1. I keep my room 1. I k.
2. Let’s e p m k reading the book.
3. I can’t go to school today because I’m m…
4. The TV show is about to y m k m r o.
   . I like to sit e k I z o the apple tree.
6. I’m so p. L I you came to my party.
7. We planted the seeds in the r t m..
8. The elephant at the zoo was very . I ’ p .

Down

1. You have to be y I r 2 if you want to buy that new toy.
2. I e I r o L my toe on the table leg.
3. The doghouse is r s I…
4. My mum gets s I L if my room is messy.
   . The plane was flying I e t a the clouds.
6. The animals in the pet shop looked d k o I i n.
7. The weather was m 1 n when we went to the snow.
8. Can you 1. t r the door please.
9. The teacher said we were being too . t d L.