Tier One, Two, & Three Words

- *Tier One words* are the words of everyday speech usually learned in the early grades.

- *Tier Two words* (academic vocabulary) are far more likely to appear in written texts than in speech, and they appear in all kinds of texts: informational texts (words such as *relative*, *vary*, *formulate*, *specificity*, and *accumulate*), technical texts (*calibrate*, *itemize*, *periphery*), and literary texts (*misfortune*, *dignified*, *faltered*, *unabashedly*).

- *Tier Three words* (domain-specific words) are specific to a domain or field of study (*lava*, *carburetor*, *legislature*, *circumference*, *aorta*) and key to understanding a new concept within a text.