

## Unit Organizer—8th Grade English Vocabulary

### **Subject Matter and Relationship to Core Knowledge Sequence:**

- ❖ All of the Greek/Latin/Germanic/Old English/French roots from the first twenty lists of Michael Thompson’s *The Word Within the Word*, as well as all 250 derivatives from lists 21-30.
- ❖ Together the above lists consist of 500 roots and 250 derivatives—above and beyond the required fifty in the *Core Knowledge Sequence*.

### **Assessments:**

- ❖ Students will review (from 7<sup>th</sup> grade) all the roots from lists 1-20 at a pace of two lists per week. This will finish in November. After this, the weekly quizzes will continue to test lists 1-20 as well as starting to test on the derivatives from lists 21-30 at a pace of one list every two weeks through the end of the year.
- ❖ After every five lists there will be a review test.
- ❖ During the study of the derivative lists (21-30), there will be various assignments/activities teaching the students how to use each word correctly.

### **Standards for Achievement and Performance:**

#### **AFTER THIS UNIT THE STUDENT SHOULD BE ABLE TO...**

- ❖ Know the core meaning of 500 of the most productive roots and affixes for the English language.
- ❖ Be able to understand and use the 250 derivatives from lists 21-30.
- ❖ Start to get a feel for the way these morphemes come together to form words with related, composite meanings.
- ❖ Be a much better speller as he/she thinks about the roots involved in a word.
- ❖ Have a greater appreciation for the history of the English language and what languages influenced its vocabulary.
- ❖ Be more proficient at using different forms of words that he/she may have never been specifically taught before. For example, he/she will learn that “-ous” is a suffix that means “full of” and which makes words into adjectives. Thus, if he/she wants to use the adjective form of the noun, “courage,” he/or she can be sure that “courageous” is the adjective form as well as the correct spelling as it is just the noun with the adjectival suffix added.
- ❖ Be much better at understanding new words that he/she comes across in reading and listening.
- ❖ Quickly learn new vocabulary in any language that has been influenced by these same languages/roots.
- ❖ Be more adept at choosing just the right word in just the right writing/speaking spot.

**Character Traits/Habits of Mind:**

- ❖ One can't put a price tag on using the right word at the right time. It can be the difference between offending someone and moving him/her to truth and beauty. Also, one can't assess the value of being able to enjoy the great works of our literary heritage, and such works often require a thorough base of vocabulary comprehension. It is a great tragedy that a whole generation is growing up without the tools to enjoy Dickens, Shakespeare, Dostoyevsky, religious scriptures, etc. It is the goal of this rigorous vocabulary program to make sure that is not the story for Liberty students.
  
- ❖ **This unit extends throughout the entire year.**