

Core Skills Analysis

English Language

- Saskia learned how to effectively use a dictionary to independently find the meanings of unfamiliar words.
- She identified that a thesaurus provides alternative words, expanding her vocabulary through synonyms.
- She understood the concept and term 'synonyms' and how words can have similar meanings.
- She practiced reference skills by navigating between different language resources to enhance comprehension and expression.

Tips

To deepen Saskia's understanding of vocabulary building, encourage her to create her own mini-dictionary with new words she finds in reading. Exploring synonyms through creative writing prompts can bring these alternatives to life and solidify her grasp of nuanced meaning. Introducing games like synonym matching or word replacement challenges can make learning interactive and fun. Additionally, connecting the skill of using dictionaries and thesauruses to real-world writing — such as crafting descriptive stories or letters — can strengthen practical application and boost confidence.

Book Recommendations

- [The Usborne Illustrated Dictionary](#) by Usborne: A visually engaging dictionary designed for children to develop their understanding and use of words.
- [Thesaurus Rex](#) by Irene Kelly: A fun introduction to synonyms and word alternatives through a story format.
- [Vocabulary Cartoons: SAT Word Power](#) by Sam Burchers Jr.: Uses cartoons and mnemonic devices to help young learners remember words and their synonyms.

Learning Standards

- English - Reading: Vocabulary Development (KS2 English, National Curriculum) - Develop strategies to expand vocabulary independently by using dictionaries and thesauruses.
- English - Writing: Composition and Effect (KS2 English, National Curriculum) - Use a growing vocabulary for precision and style through synonyms.
- English - Spoken Language (KS2 English, National Curriculum) - Understanding word meanings and relationships to improve communication skills.

Try This Next

- Create a personal glossary booklet where Saskia records new words, their meanings, and synonyms.
- Design a synonym scavenger hunt where she finds and substitutes words in sentences using a thesaurus.

Growth Beyond Academics

This activity likely boosted Saskia's independent learning skills and curiosity about language. Successfully finding word meanings and synonyms can increase her confidence with reading and writing and encourage persistence when encountering challenging vocabulary.