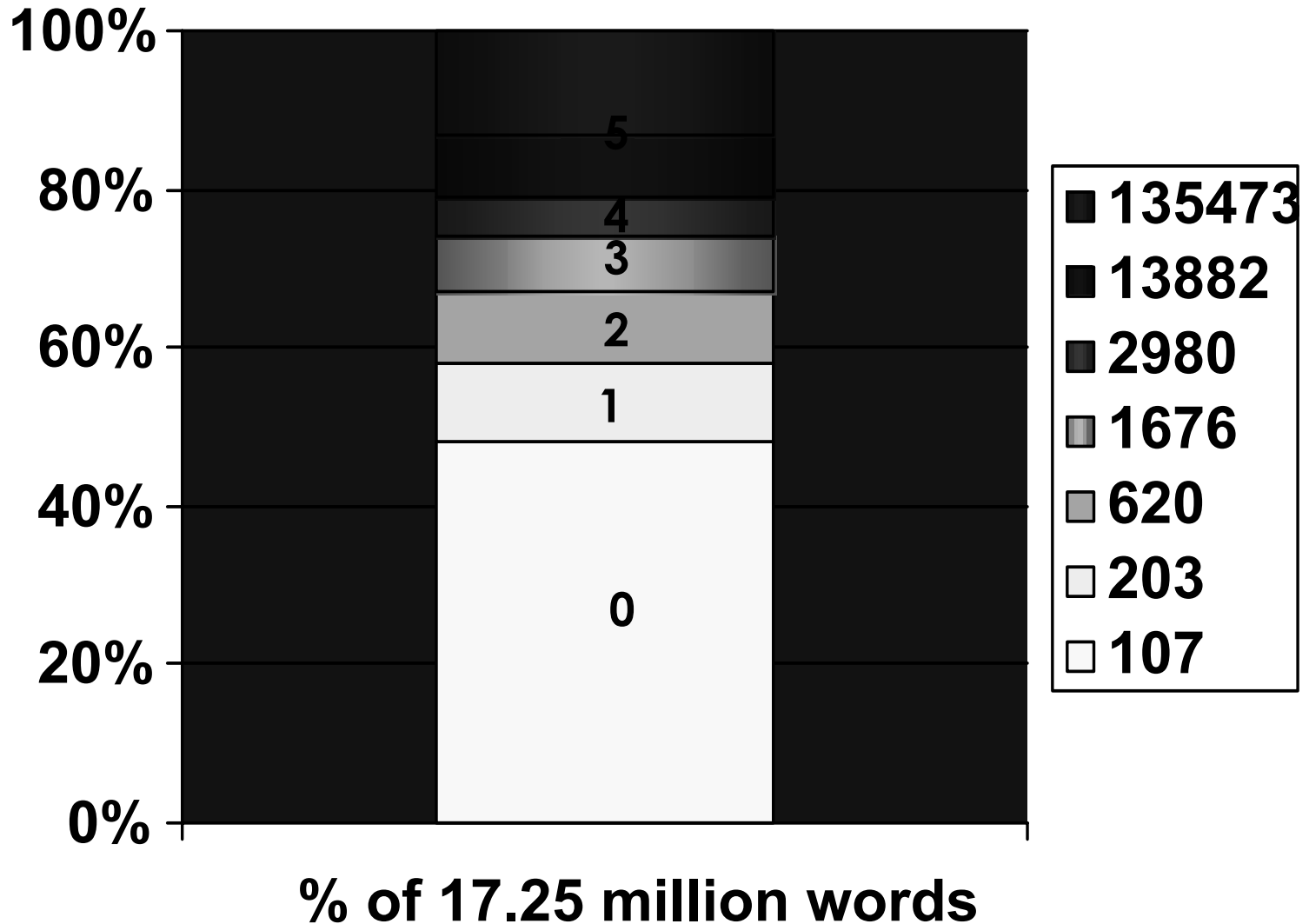


In Pursuit of an Efficient, Effective, Vocabulary Curriculum for Grades One To Four

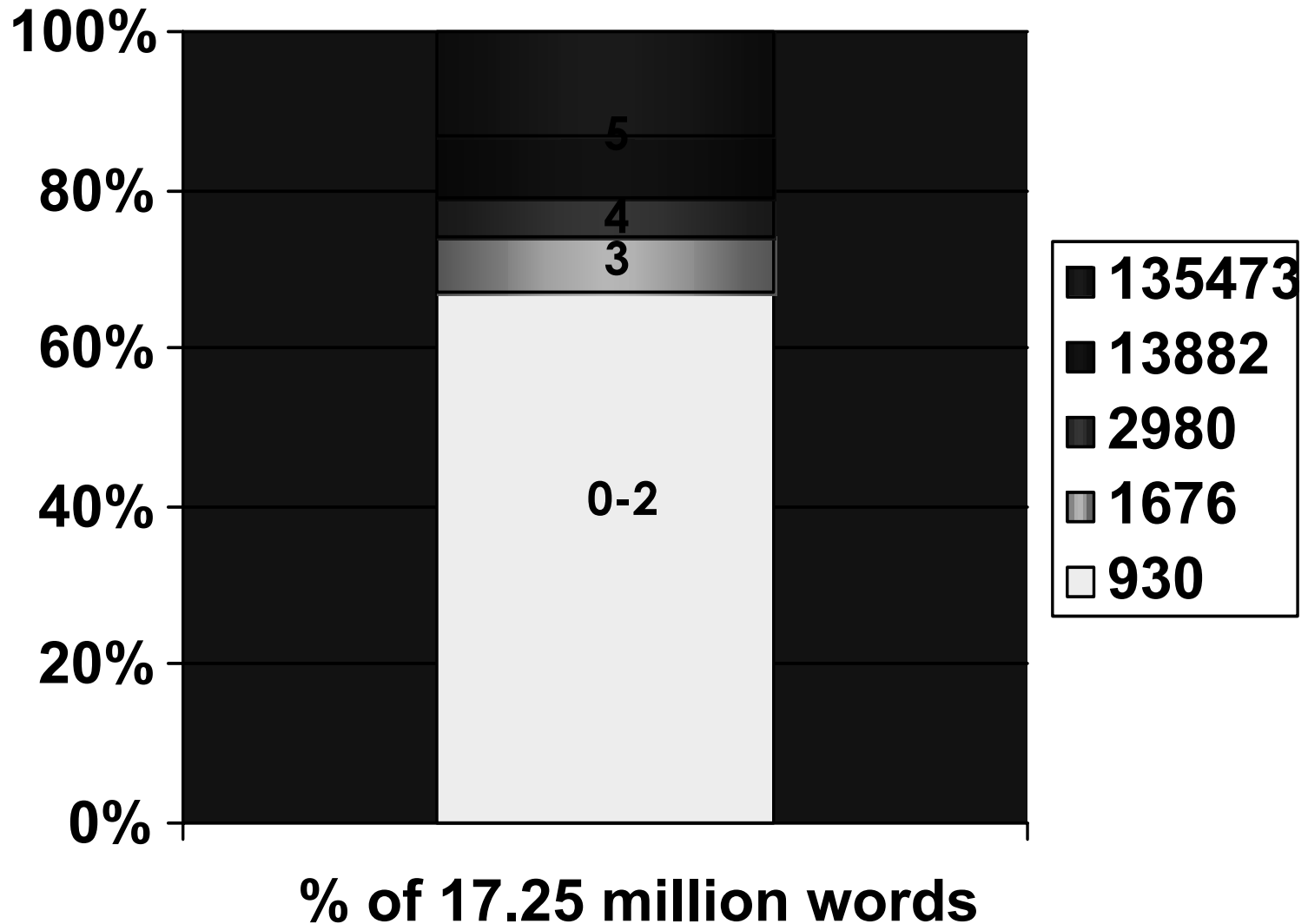
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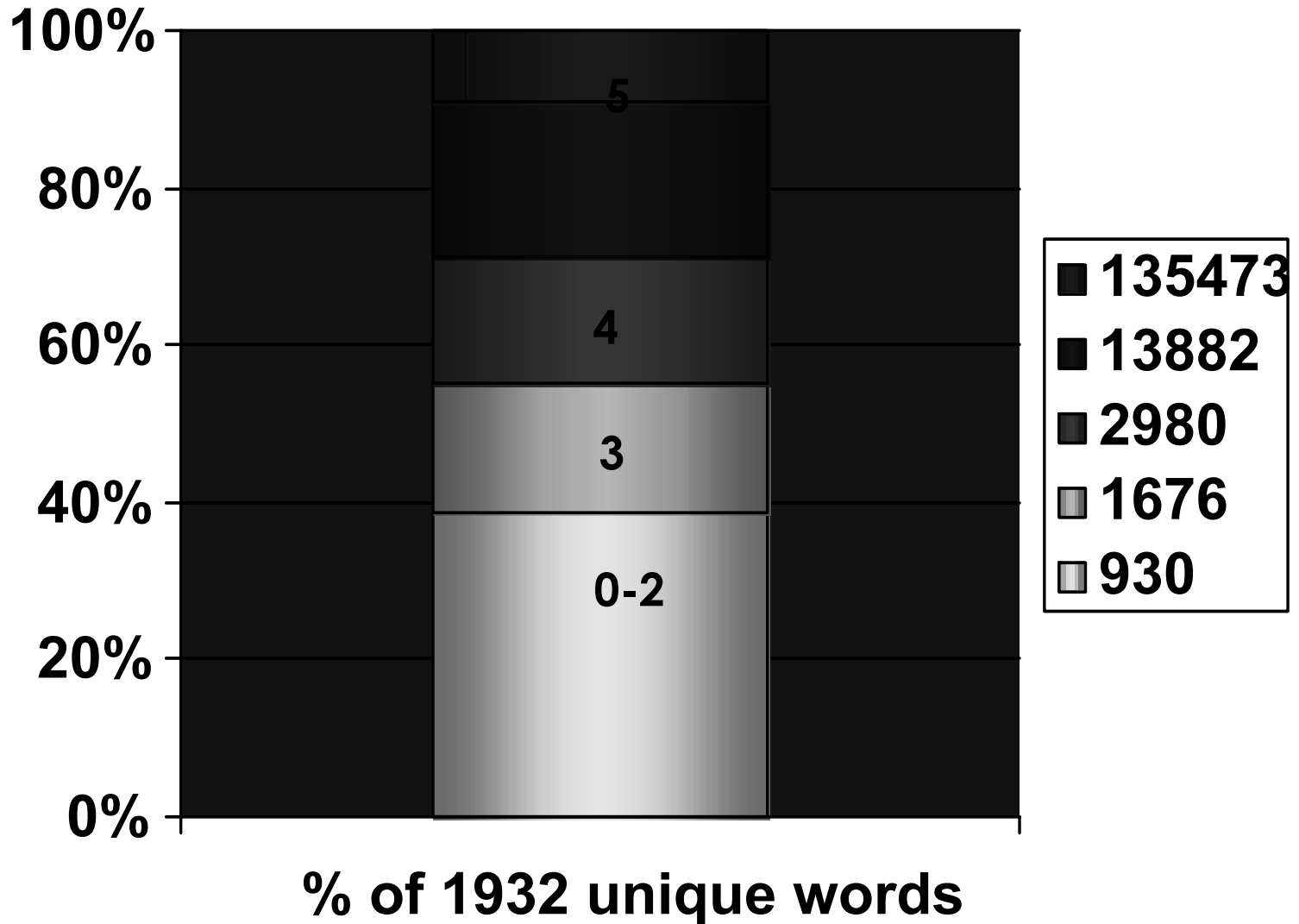
The Words that Make up School Texts



The Words that Make up School Texts



Distribution of Words in Grade 2 Textbooks of Nation's Leading Reading Program



Gr. 2 Texts (Nation's Leading Reading/Language Arts Textbook)

	New Unique Words per 100	Av. Reps. per word	Zone 5 Words (% of all unique)	Zone 5 Words Singletons (% of all unique)
Reading Texts	17.5	5.7	29%	17%

Words Taught in Gr2/Unit 4

attention discovered	accept accident advantage argument audience colonies commands electrical enormous expression guarded nearby officer safety stared tending	dim experts herd horizon imagination log obeys stiff tropical tunnels weaver	antennae applauded banner carpenter cocoons fastening fungus larvae munching penalty pity puddle quarrel sawdust stalks aphids jeered parasol swivel teamwork news team
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Words Taught in Gr2/Unit 4: Repeated Words

	<p>accept</p> <p>argument audience</p> <p>office r</p>	<p>obeys</p> <p>tunn els</p>	<p>antennae</p> <p>fungus larvae</p> <p>parasol swivel</p>
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Which words should be taught?

- I. What is the vocabulary of the criterion task at Gr. 4?**
- II. What form might a principle-based vocabulary curriculum take?**
- III. Could a principle-based vocabulary curriculum be tied to current texts?**

I. What is the vocabulary of the criterion task at Gr. 4?

Zone	FCAT, (Gr.4)	NY State (Gr.4)	TAKS, (Gr.4)	NAEP (Gr. 4)
5b	100	100	100	100
5a	99	97.5	97.5	99.5
4	91	92	91.5	93
3	83	84	80.5	87
1-2	67	72	70	80

I. What is the vocabulary of the criterion task at Gr. 4?

Zone	FCAT, (Gr.4)	NY State (Gr.4)	TAKS, (Gr.4)	NAEP (Gr. 4)	Officer Buckle (from Gr. 2 Text)
5b	100	100	100	100	100
5a	99	97.5	97.5	99.5	96
4	91	92	91.5	93	88
3	83	84	80.5	87	78
1-2	67	72	70	80	66

II. A Proposal for a Principle-Based Curriculum

- **Efficient:**

- **Words that appear most frequently**

- **Words with more than one semantic family member within most-frequent words**

- **Effective:**

- **Words that children don't know**

II. A Proposal for a Principle-Based Curriculum

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II. A Proposal for a Principle-Based Curriculum

- Efficient:**

- Words that appear most frequently**

- Words with more than one semantic family member within most-frequent words**

- Effective:**

- Words that children don't know**

Principle of Efficiency

- **Most-Frequent Words:** Begin with the words that account for 90%+ on standards-based tests: 5586 through zone 4
- **Cluster words within this list according to semantic relatedness**

	Target Word	Immediate Ancestor
0	automatically achievement	automatic achieve
1	sunshine, sunlight shiny	sun shine
2	knowledge everyday	know every
3	password visualize	pass visual
4	apartment artificial	apart artifice
5	prefix peppermint	fix pepper

continued	100	continue (30) continues (10) continuing (10)
separate	30	separated (30) separately (10)
automatic	10	automatically (10)

Efficiency

	Total Words
Zone 1	203
Zone 2	620
Zone 3	1676
Zone 4	2980

Efficiency

	Total Words	Semantic families
Zone 1	203	160
Zone 2	620	231
Zone 3	1676	840
Zone 4	2980	1233

Efficiency

	Total Words	Semantic families	Semantic Families of 2+
Zone 1	203	160	124
Zone 2	620	231	221
Zone 3	1676	840	612
Zone 4	2980	1233	332

Principle of Effectiveness

- **“Known-ness” of words established through:**
 - Dale & O'Rourke's (1981)
Living Word Vocabulary (LWV)**
 - **Too easy: If 85%+ in Gr. 4**
 - **Too difficult: Not known by Gr. 8**
 - LWV confirmed with Johnson's
(1983) Ginn Word Book for Teachers**

Principle of Effectiveness

- **“Known-ness” of words established through:**

- Dale & O'Rourke's (1981)
Living Word Vocabulary (LWV)

- Too easy: If known by more than 87%
of Gr. 4

- Too difficult: Not known by Gr. 8

- LWV confirmed with Johnson's
(1983) Ginn Word Book for Teachers

	Word Zone	LWV	GWBT	Word Zone
continued	2	75% (G4)	Mid. Gr. 2	2
separate	3	70% (G4) 73% (G8)	End Gr. 2	3
automatic	4	69% (G4)	Mid. Gr. 4	4

Effectiveness

	Total Words	Semantic families	Semantic Families of 2+	Not Known
Zone 1	203	160	124	49
Zone 2	620	231	221	76
Zone 3	1676	840	612	250
Zone 4	2980	1233	332	163

Effectiveness

	Total Words	Semantic families	Semantic Families of 2+	Not Known	Carry-over
Zone 1	203	160	124	49	8 (Z2) 1 (Z3)
Zone 2	620	231	221	76	18 (Z3)
Zone 3	1676	840	612	250	20 (Z2) 24 (Z4)
Zone 4	2980	1233	332	163	

Effectiveness

	Total Words	Semantic families	Semantic Families of 2+	Not Known	Carry-over	Zone-Focus Words
Zone 1	203	160	124	49	8 (Z2) 1 (Z3)	40
Zone 2	620	231	221	76	18 (Z3)	86
Zone 3	1676	840	612	250	20 (Z2) 24 (Z4)	225
Zone 4	2980	1233	332	163		187

Focus on Vocabulary Forum (PREL, 2004)

Word Zone/ Grade	Words within Zone/Grade
1	body important form believe example
2	nature scientists behavior considered section
3	defense express sample style managed
4	exposed minor tense associated merchandise

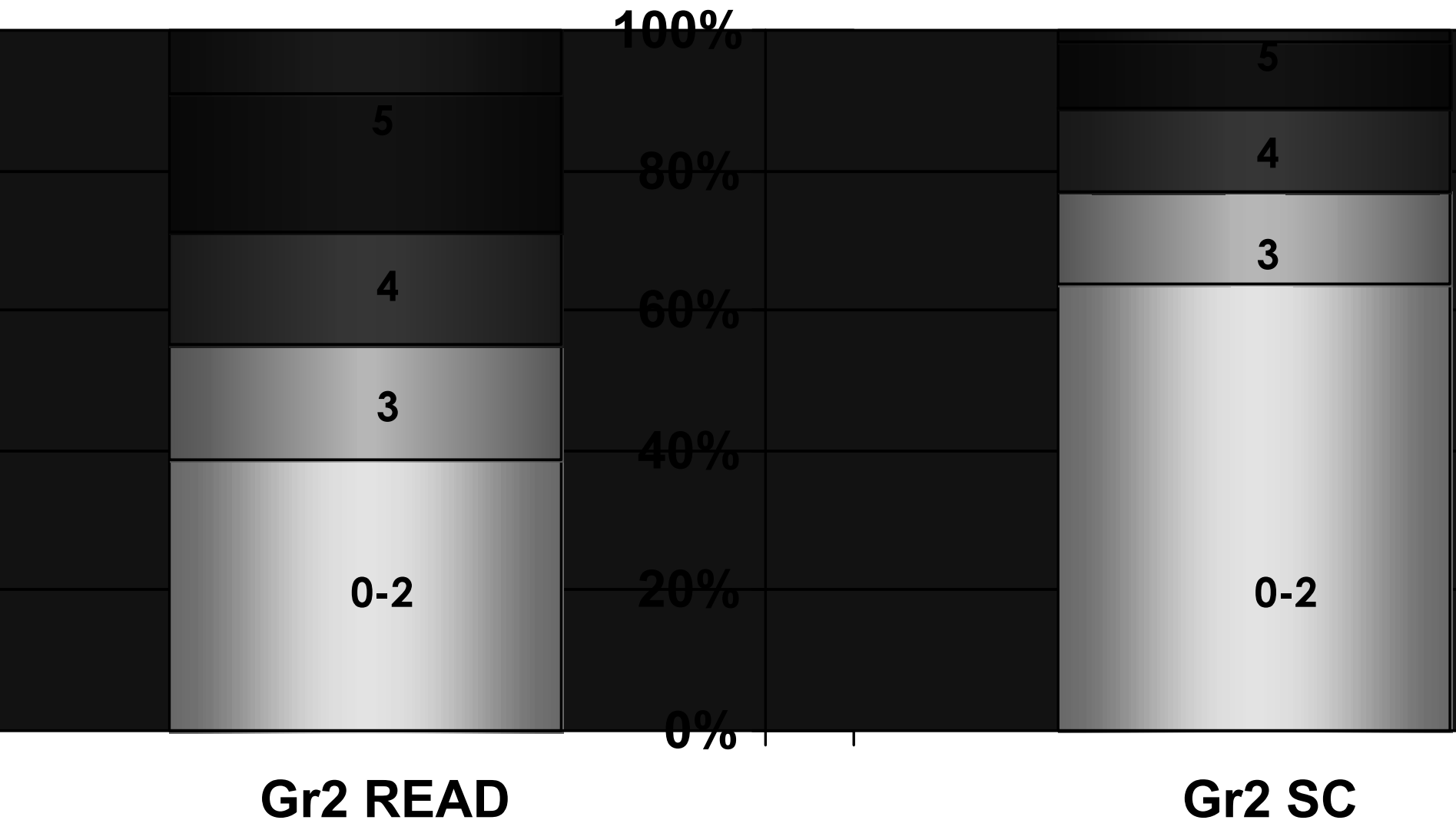
Characteristics of Curriculum:

- These 538 clusters represent 25% of the 5,586 most-frequent words
- Another approximately 3,559 in Zone 5 words are related to these 538 words.
- Parts of Speech (based on sample):
 - Nouns: 51%
 - Verbs: 34%
 - Adjective: 13%
 - Adverb: 2%
- Shared Spanish cognate (based on sample): 53%

III. Principle-based vocabulary curriculum and current texts

- **Literature *may be* the source for learning context clue strategies and incidental learning**
- **Science texts *may be* a better context in which to teach and practice a principle-based vocabulary curriculum**

Nation's Leading Reading Textbook & Its Science Textbook



Gr2 READ

Gr2 SC

Nation's Leading Publisher: Gr. 2 Texts

	New Unique Words per 100	Av. Reps. per word	Zone 5 Words (% of all unique)	Zone 5 Words Singletons (% of all unique)
Reading Texts	17.5	5.7	29%	17%
Science Texts	8	12	11%	6%

Which words should be taught?

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**Papers from research
program available at:
*www.textproject.org***

