NCTE 2026

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Grab-N-Go

Exploring Words:
How Language Field Guides Transform Vocabulary Instruction

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lilyPD Resources	Other Field Guide Resources
Finding a Word Worth Exploring Student-Facing Video: How to Create a Vocabulary Field Note General Field Note Instructions Social Studies Field Notes Most Important Word Field Guide Core Word Field Note Word Gaps Field Notes (Blog Post) Field Note: Exploring the Language of a Place (created for Write Out 2026)	"Making Vocabulary Instruction Active with Language Field Guides", *New York Times* A Roundup of Field Guide Resources from Moving Writers

Your Turn : Our Text: "Meteor Shower" by Clint Smith

Free-Choice Field Note	Core Word Field Note
Choose one word from the poem that intrigues you. Explore that word and see what you discover!	Choose four powerful, significant words from the poem. Explore each briefly. Then, find a word that pulls all four of these words together. (It may be a word in the poem, but it very likely might not be!) Synthesize and consider: how does this "core word" inform your understanding of the poem's theme?

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Tiny Teaching:
The Power of Making Skills-Based Writing Instruction Small

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Mini Moves for Every Writer book

Resources You'll Need Today

The Big Idea Claim – Graphic Organizer for Students
Synthesize It Claim – Graphic Organizer for Students
Graphic Organizers with pop culture mentor texts – Practice for Teachers!

Excerpt of "*Grand Theft Auto VI* is a grounded love story, a gonzo crime thriller, and a gaming triumph":

> But let's back up a little. For anyone who has somehow missed the shrieking, neon-and-swamp-water marketing onslaught over the past several days, weeks, months and years, *Grand Theft Auto VI* is the newest release from Rockstar Games. It is a Bonnie and Clyde love story, a knife-edged satire of modern American culture and politics, an unapologetic murder simulator, a love letter to 50 years of crime movies, and a thoughtful, emotional meditation on the sacrifices, small and large, that we make for family. A massive open world game set in the fictional state of Leonida (based on the very real state of Florida), it represents a return to a location that Rockstar hasn't visited in-depth since its 2002 release of *GTA: Vice City*, and is the first new game in the franchise since *GTA5* launched in 2013. According to estimates, it already earned over $1.5 billion in pre-sales and will likely make a total of $3 to $5 billion in its first week, which could make it the largest single entertainment product launch ever.
>
> Fans have been waiting years for it. They have created libraries worth of lore and theories and dissected trailers frame-by-frame. To discount the overheated environment into which this singular work of art is being released would be doing a disservice both to it and the legions of salivating prognosticators who have made guessing the number of bird species included in-game, or speculating on the square mileage of its map, their entire personalities.

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