



The Functions of Words

Part One of a Two Part Series



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That “awful” grammar. That horrible bugaboo...

Advanced Montessori Method, page 7



Why Teach Grammar?

*There are **five** big reasons or aims*

1. To understand words and their functions
2. To improve and expand oral communication through proper grammatical usage
3. To improve and expand writing through appropriate grammatical usage
4. To act as one medium for analysis and evaluation of written works
5. To aid in the development of reasoning, analytic skills, and creativity.

also...

It can be fun!



Key Elements of Literacy

- ▶ Oral language
- ▶ Listening
- ▶ Vocabulary development
- ▶ Phonemic Awareness
- ▶ Phonics Instruction
- ▶ Writing
- ▶ Fluency
- ▶ Comprehension skills
- ▶ Every one of these is influenced and affected by grammar

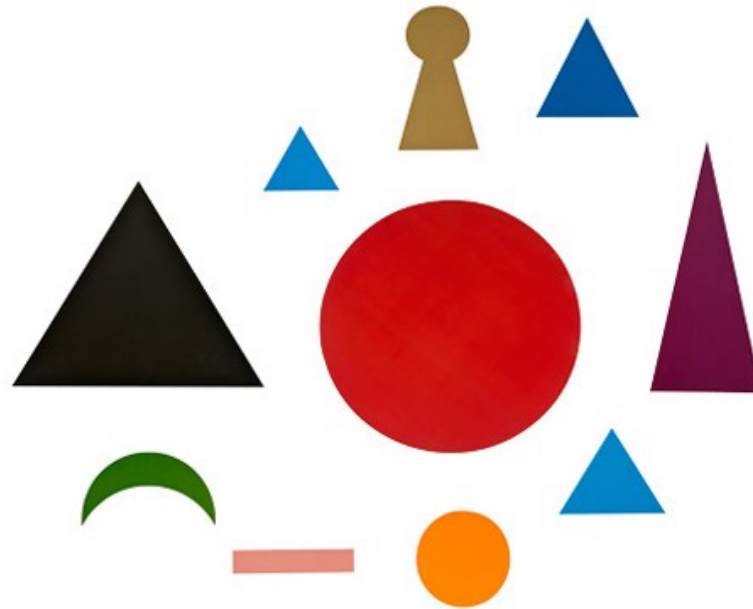


What is meant by the *Functions of Words*?

The initial set of presentations and work introducing the parts of speech.

In English, Montessorians consider nine functions of words:

- Noun
- Article
- Adjective
- Conjunction
- Preposition
- Verb
- Adverb
- Pronoun
- Interjection



Integration

Work with Grammar and Functions of Words is integrative in that it applies to the entire curriculum. It has applications in

- ▶ Classified Nomenclatures of:
 - ▶ Botany
 - ▶ Geography
 - ▶ Geometry
 - ▶ Zoology
- ▶ History of the English language
- ▶ Composition
- ▶ Literature
- ▶ Others



What's unique about the Montessori Approach to Word Grammar?



- ▶ The use of symbols
- ▶ Distinctive colors
- ▶ The phased in approach, beginning in the Children's House
- ▶ The involvement of stories.
- ▶ The age levels.

Functions of Words

	Noun
	Article
	Adjective
	Conjunction
	Preposition
	Verb
	Adverb
	Pronoun
	Interjection

Compare to the Grammar Boxes

The Grammar Boxes were developed first, See *Advanced Montessori Method*, Volume II, Part 1.

The eight Grammar Boxes use a different color scheme and a different sequence

- ▶ *Nouns - Black*
- ▶ *Articles - Tan*
- ▶ *Adjectives - Brown*
- ▶ *Verbs - Red*
- ▶ *Prepositions - Purple*
- ▶ *Adverbs - Pink*
- ▶ *Pronouns - Green*
- ▶ *Conjunctions - Yellow*
- ▶ *Interjections - Blue*



The *Grammar Symbols* were developed during Montessori's time in India. They did not exist in the 1930's.

The different colors in the symbols result from availability of materials during the war, not because of purpose. The grammar symbols have changed a bit over time.

The Sequence



Noun
Article
Adjective



Conjunction
Preposition



Verb
Adverb
Pronoun



Interjection

More on Sequence

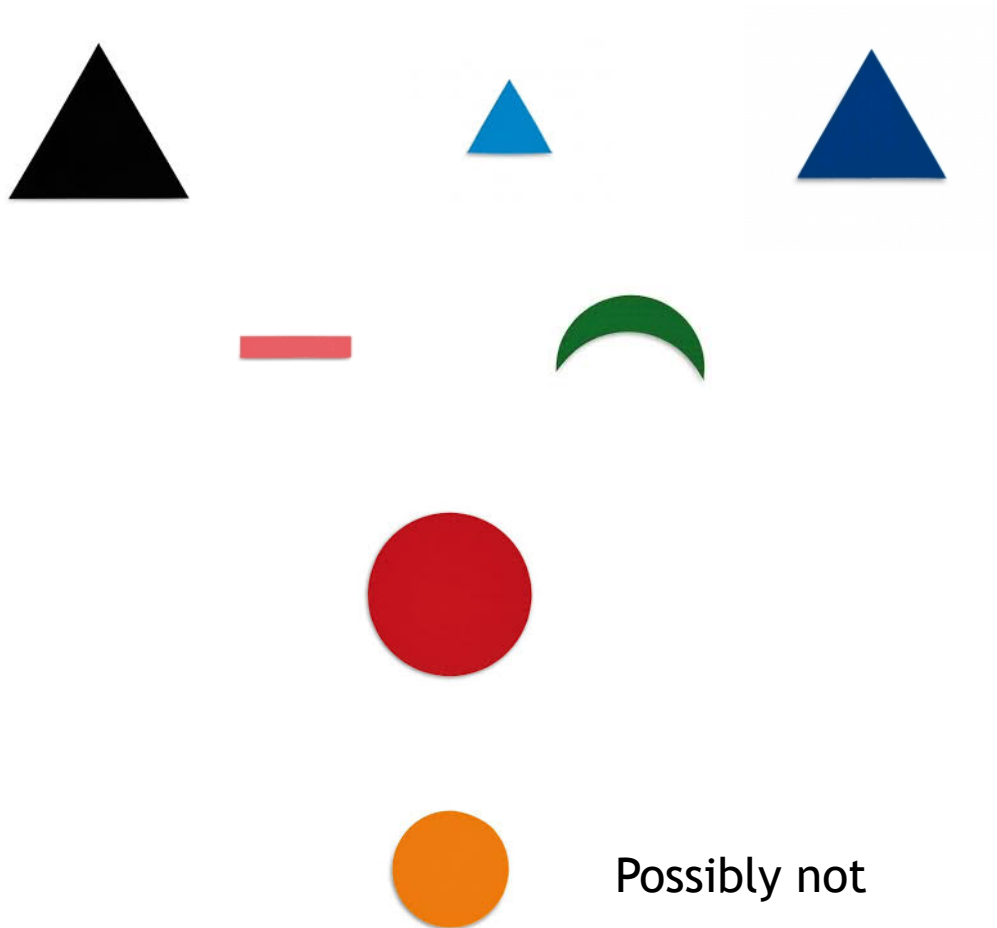
- ▶ Functions of Words are parallel to Word Study and Punctuation
- ▶ They may be presented orally first
- ▶ They precede the Grammar Boxes

The General Plan

- ▶ Start with an Imaginative Story (for Elementary)
- ▶ Present the Function
- ▶ Present the Solid Symbol
- ▶ Position and Transposition
- ▶ Exercises or Games
- ▶ Transition to the flat symbol
- ▶ Relation to other Functions
- ▶ Conclusion



The Children's House



Usually, only six or seven functions are offered at this level.

Possibly not

Children's House Nomenclature



naming word



introducing word



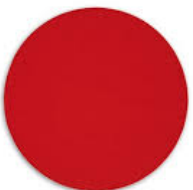
describing word



joining word



relationship word



action word

*Names like these
are usually used
in the Children's
House. Then more
formal names are
introduced in
elementary
school.*

The Noun

- ▶ The Story of the Multitude
- ▶ The First Presentation of the Noun
- ▶ Concrete and Abstract nouns
- ▶ Noun activities
 - Your name
 - Surnames
 - Feelings
 - Ideas
 - Some Kinds of Nouns: Collective, Common, Proper, Material, etc.
 - A Little Environment
 - Gender
 - Number
 - Etc



Where to Put the Symbol

Symbols are placed above the words



Michael



Minnesota



table



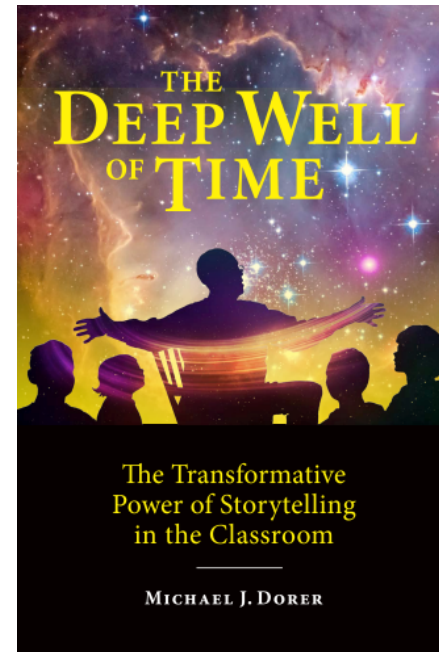
love



kindness

Story of the First Word

- ▶ from *The Deep Well of Time: The Transformative Power of Storytelling in the Classroom*





a planet



the moon

▲ The Article

- ▶ It introduces the Noun
- ▶ There are only three in English
- ▶ Its history
- ▶ Definite and indefinite
- ▶ Before a vowel sound
- ▶ Singular and plural

The Adjective.



- ▶ Introduce the Adjective
- ▶ Use describing adjectives
- ▶ Use the symbol
- ▶ Use the article
- ▶ The Little Environment



A



red



barn

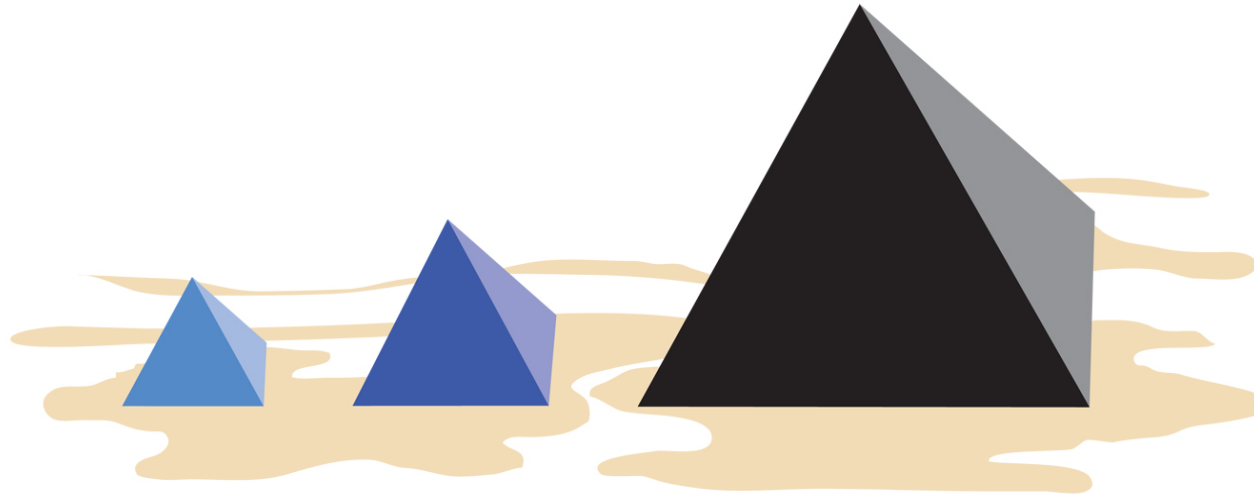
The Noun Family



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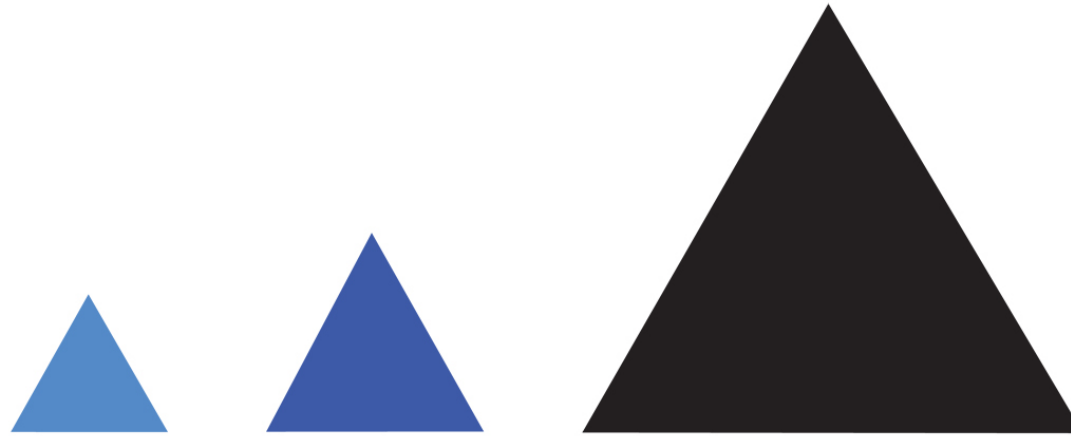
Family Portrait

The Noun Family



© Montessori Leadership Group The Landscape of Ancient Times

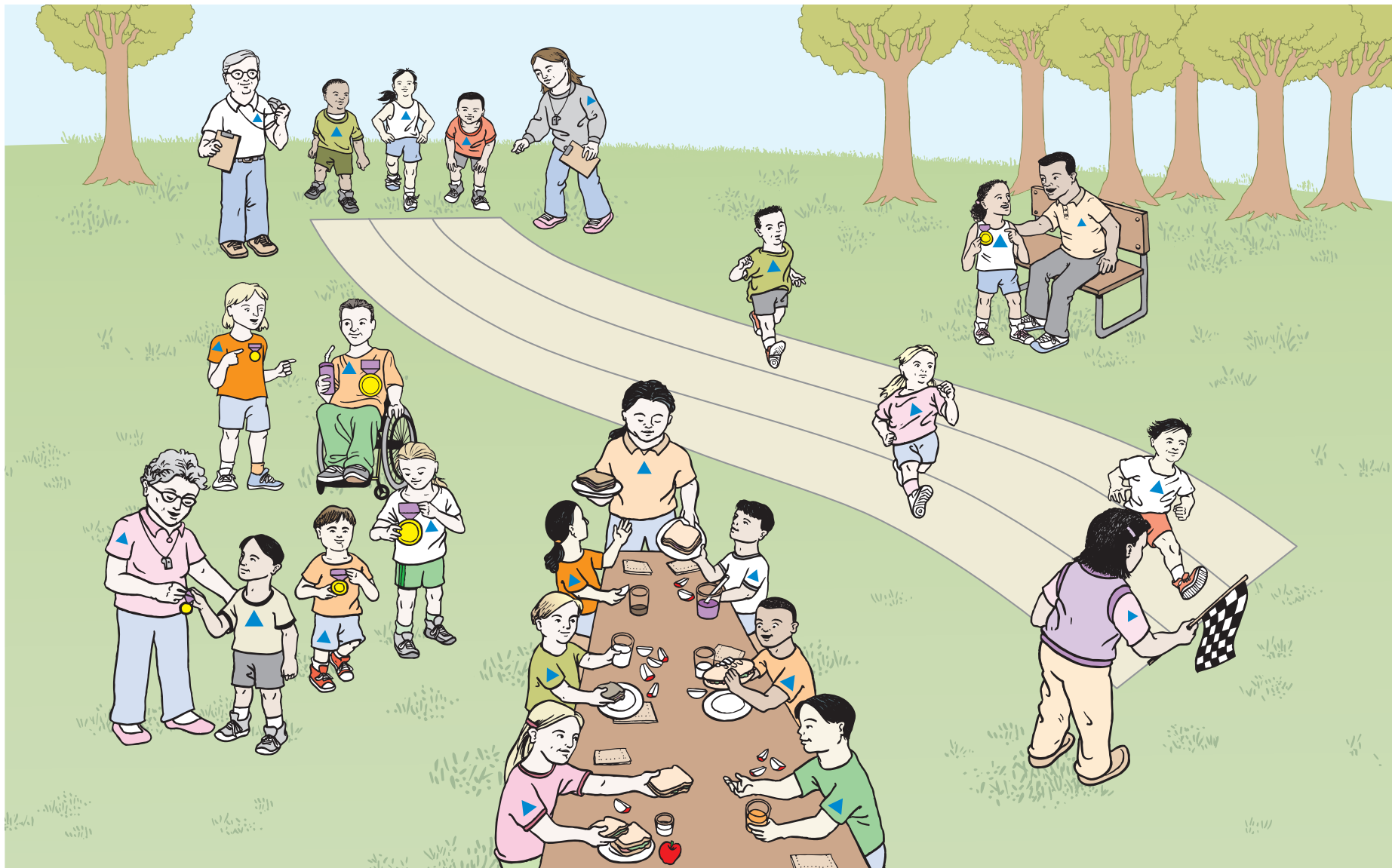
The Noun Family



The Noun Family

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The Formal Grouping



The Adjective Picnic

The Six Roles of the Adjective

- ▶ Describe
 - ▶ Count
 - ▶ Point
 - ▶ Distribute
 - ▶ Show Ownership
 - ▶ Question
- ▶ red, large, rough
 - ▶ three, first, last
 - ▶ this, that, those
 - ▶ each, every
 - ▶ his, her, my
 - ▶ what, which
- ▶ Descriptive
 - ▶ Numerical
 - ▶ Demonstrative
 - ▶ Distributive
 - ▶ Possessive
 - ▶ Interrogative

More on Adjectives

- Position and Transposition
- The Paper Game (attributes)
- The Detective Game of Triangles (attributes)
- Qualities of the Little Environment
- Which Quality or Qualities are Suitable? (sometimes called Logical Agreement)
- In Search of All Possible Qualities of One Object



Summarize the noun Family



- ▶ Make many phrases
- ▶ Use two or more adjectives
- ▶ Look at which adjectives are friends with an article and which are not.
- ▶ Try plurals
- ▶ Examine other activities

The Conjunction



The Functions

The flowers and the pink ribbon

The Symbol

Etymology

Transposition

The Little Environment



The Preposition

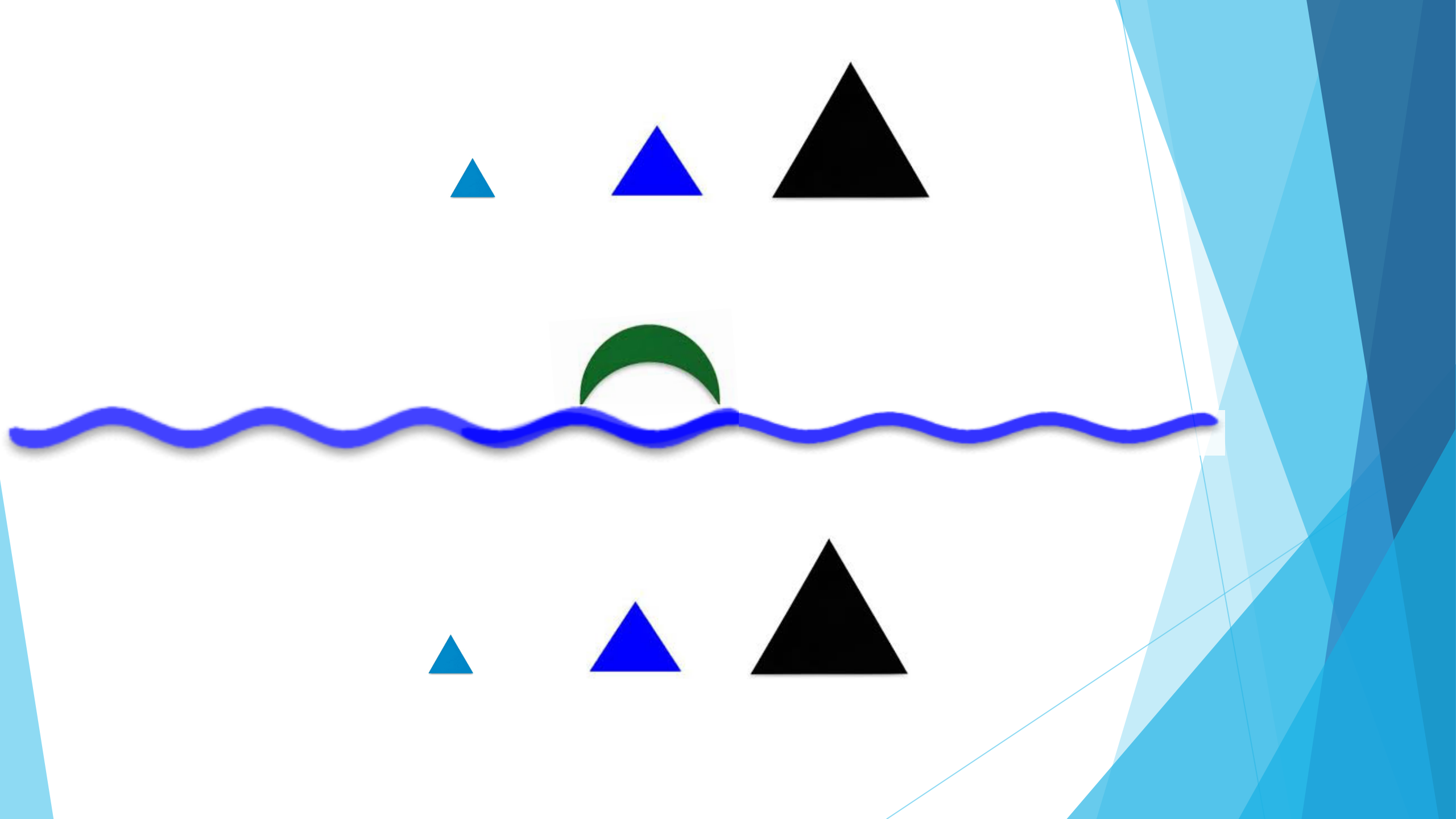
Story

Function and Etymology

Second Presentation: include transposition

The Little Environment





The Study of the Verb

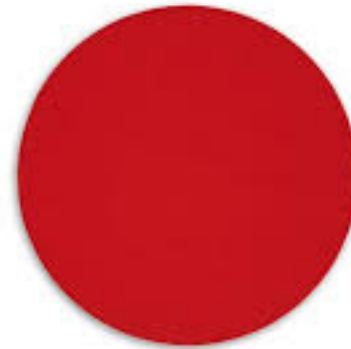
This will introduce:

The Verb Family

Tenses

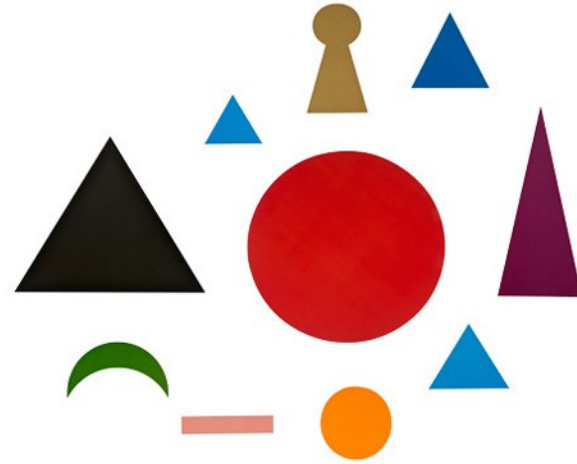
Conjugation

And many activities and stories



Functions of Words

	Noun
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This Ends Part One

See You Next Week for More Functions of Words

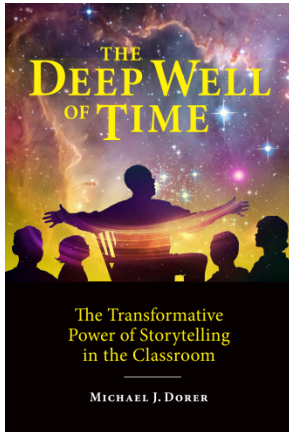
Thanks for joining me!

Any questions?



The Deep Well of Time:

The Transformative Power of Storytelling in the Classroom



by Michael J. Dorer

From *Parent Child Press*

<http://www.montessoriservices.com/the-deep-well-of-time>

Paperback, 356 pages. \$24.95 US

A black and white portrait of Dr. Michael Dorer, a man with a beard and glasses, smiling and resting his chin on his hand. The portrait is positioned on the left side of the slide, partially overlapping a blue geometric background.

Let's Keep in Touch!

Thank You!

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(not checked very often)