



## Word Mapping

Word mapping (or semantic mapping) is a useful activity to support students' understanding of new vocabulary. Word maps allow students to explore word definitions and key features, and can support their understanding and use of new words by providing a link to already-known words.

### Materials

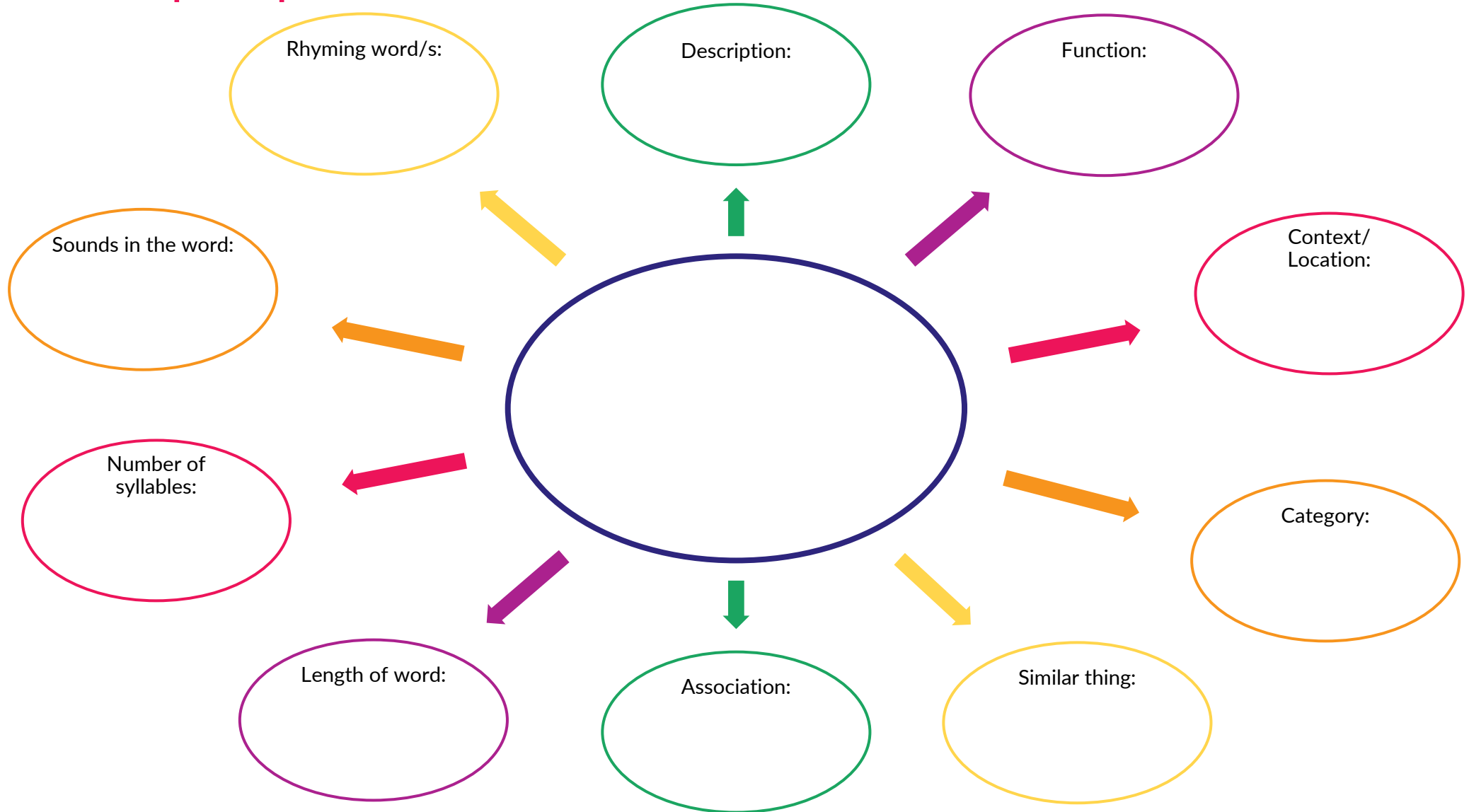
- Paper/whiteboard
- Pencils/whiteboard markers
- Word Map Template (optional)

### Instructions

1. Write target word in the centre of the page (include a visual if possible).
2. Together with the student/s, discuss the definition of the word and its key features. These features may include:
  - Semantic attributes:
    - Description (“Can you describe it?” “What colour is it?” “What parts does it have?”)
    - Function (“What does it do?” “What can you do with it?”)
    - Context/location (“Where do you find it?” “Where does it live?”)
    - Category (“What group/s does it belong to?”)
    - Similarity (“What else is like this?”)
    - Association (“What else does it make you think of?” “What else is in the same group?”)
  - Phonological attributes:
    - Length (“Is it a short word or a long word?”)
    - Rhythm (“How many syllables are in the word?”)
    - Phonemes (“What sounds are in the word?” “What sound does it start/finish with?”)
    - Rhyme (“What words does it rhyme with?”)
3. Add these features to the word map by drawing arrows from the centre word. Incorporate visuals where possible. Note that not all features will be applicable to every vocabulary term.
4. Considerations:
  - Complexity of features included in the map can be adjusted according to the student's skill level (see Early Primary, Middle/Upper Primary and Secondary Word Map Examples below).
  - Word maps could be created as a whole-class activity when introducing new content.
  - Students could create a bank of word maps specific to each curriculum area, and refer to/add to these throughout the term.
  - Word maps can be used by students to generate definitions for terms – support them to identify the most important features from the word map and then put these in sentence form.
  - Word maps can be used as an assessment tool. Students can use word maps to demonstrate their knowledge of key curriculum vocabulary by completing missing information in a partially-completed word map.

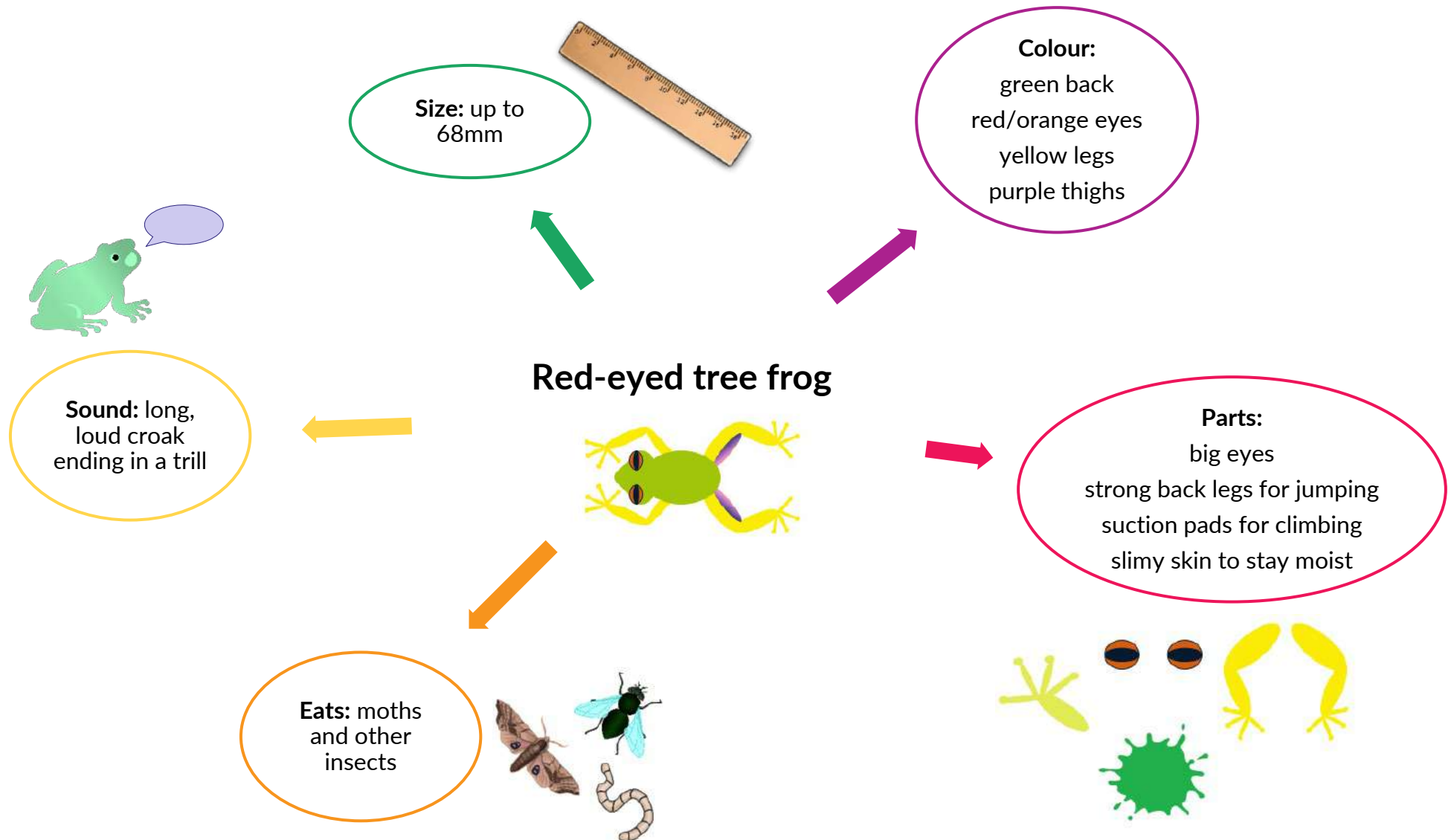


## Word Map Template



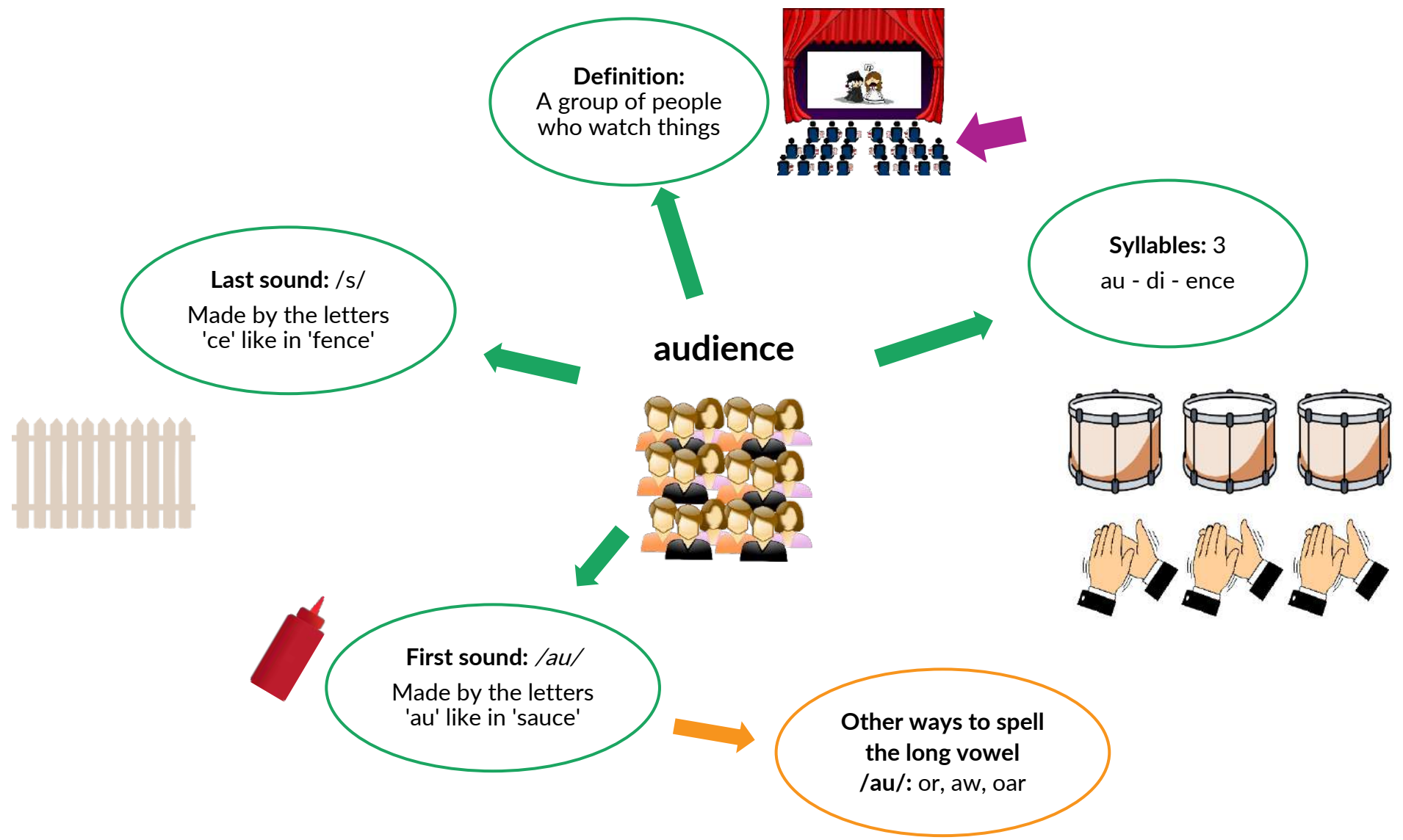


## Word Map Example – Early Primary



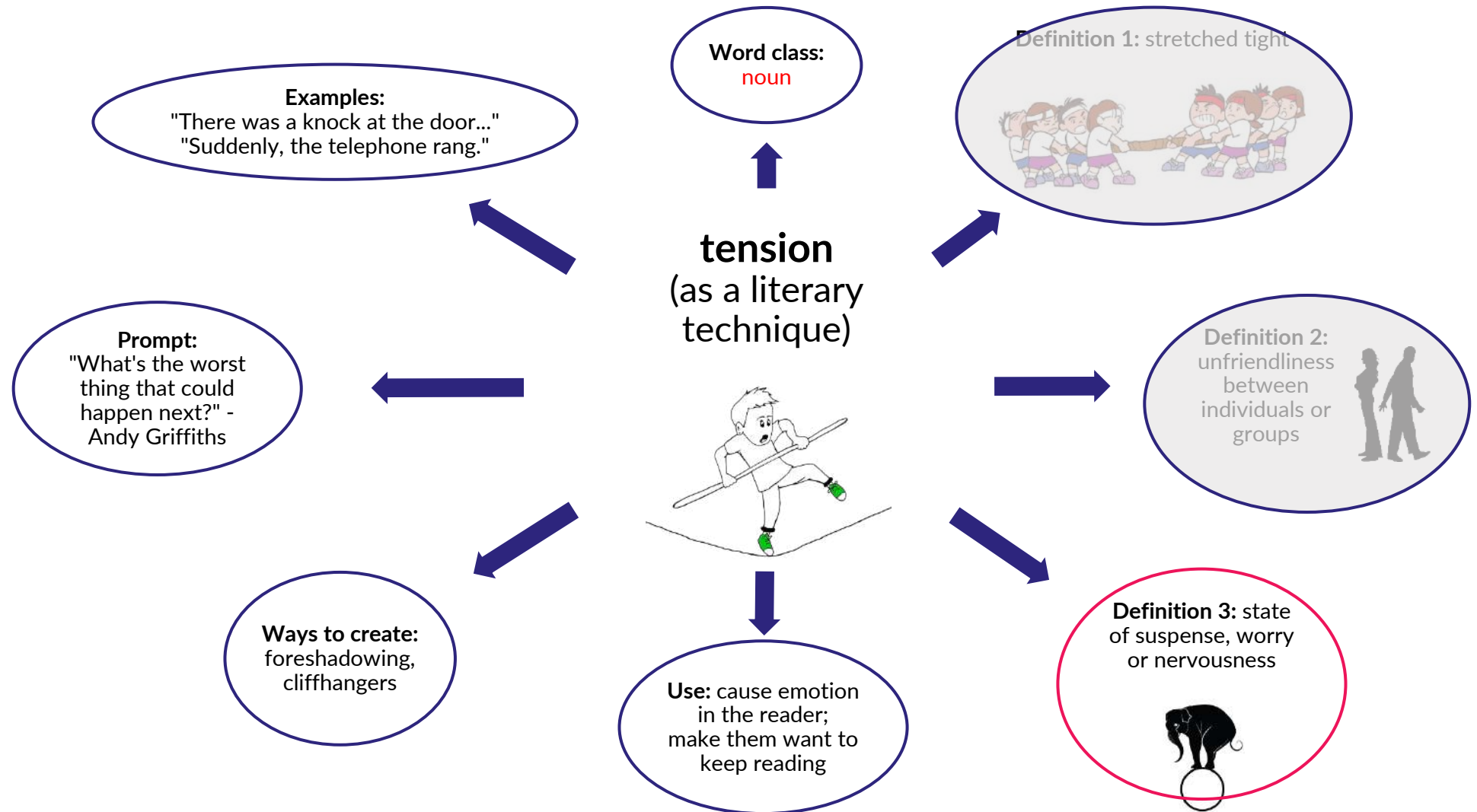


## Word Map Example – Early Primary





## Word Map Example – Middle/Upper Primary





## Word Map Example – Secondary

