Vocabulary in Children’s Literature

Name: Dorey Bungitak
Title: Mice Squeak, We Speak
Author: Tomie dePaola  # of pages: 30
Grade level: 60L  Genre: Realistic fiction

Make a list of vocabulary words from your book for a word wall:

1. squeak
2. creak
3. squeal
4. squawk
5. quack

What are three SPECIFIC activities you could do for your students to EXPLORE these words?

1. First, have the students write the words and give an example of what makes that sound and try to identify what that noise sounds like with words. Depending on the age, I could have the students look the vocabulary words up in the dictionary or on an online resource and have the students define the words.
2. I will give each child three words from the list and have the students come up with rhyming words. Each child should list at least three words that rhyme with each word given.
3. I will have the students create a word poster for one of the words on the vocabulary list. On the poster, it should include the vocabulary word, an animal that makes this particular sound and if possible, include the appropriate environment for that animal.

Describe one mini-lesson you could do in order to help the students unlock the meanings of the words:

In my mini-lesson, I will review the words with the children after reading the book. After reviewing and placing the words into the word wall, I will have the children break up into groups of five, in which I will count off. In those groups, the children will be given a cup that will hold pieces of paper with the different vocabulary words written on them. Each student will take a turn and draw out a vocabulary word and have to act it out for the rest of his/her group. This will get the children active and help them gain an idea of what each term means, particularly as an action.