Building Your Roleplay Word Banks

Every roleplay voice has a "toolbox" of words, phrases, and tone markers that make it instantly recognizable. Pirates say "Arrr," knights say "by my honor," and robots use technical words like "protocol" or "scanning." In this activity, you'll study short passages, circle the words that set the tone, and then create a **mini word bank** for each roleplay style. These word banks will help you see how vocabulary shapes voice.

Example - How to Build a Word Bank

Passage (Pirate): "Arrr, the waves crash upon me ship, and the crew clutches their grog as we set sail for treasure!"

Tone Words/Markers: Arrr, waves, ship, crew, grog, treasure

Pirate Word Bank: Arrr, matey, aye, ship, treasure, grog, booty, scallywag, sail

Passage 1 (Knight): "By my honor, I shall defend the realm, sword gleaming in the sun, for so demandeth my duty and my king."

Knight Word Bank (list 5-8 words/phrases):

Passage 2 (Zombie): "Brains... groooan... must eat... the living smell so fresh, the hunger never ends."

Zombie Word Bank (list 5-8 words/phrases):

Passage 3 (Robot): "System online. Scanning for life forms. Probability of human success: 3%. Recommend immediate recalibration."

Robot Word Bank (list 5-8 words/phrases):

Passage 4 (Cowboy): "The saloon doors creaked as my boots hit the floorboards. Folks turned quiet, knowin' trouble had just walked in."

Cowboy Word Bank (list 5-8 words/phrases):

