Subjective Approach to Vocabulary (SAV)

This strategy has been used in the following ABLE lesson(s):
   Rent to Own - Reading Strategy
   http://mercury.educ.kent.edu/database/eureka/detail_lesson_general.cfm?LessonsID=170

SAV builds on experiences and knowledge students have already acquired. Students use personal experiences or associations to build a strong memory and meaning of the new vocabulary word. A guided "talk-through" is lead by the teacher to help students become better strategic readers and make connections between each word and their personal experience. Research has found that SAV was significantly more effective than conventional approaches to vocabulary.

Procedure:
1. Teacher selects 2-4 words for preteaching from the reading selection.
2. Teacher explains and talks about the conventional meaning of each word and writes a definition on the board.
3. Teacher asks class "What does this word remind you of?" If this is the first time the teacher has used this approach ask "It will be easier for you to learn and remember this new word if you can think of some personal 'mental pictures' or experiences that you can connect with it."
4. Students record the word and the associations made, either their own or another student's.
5. Teacher asks "Now that you have a dictionary definition and a first reaction or association, what new associations or meanings do you have for this term?"
6. Class reads the selection the words were taken from and compiles a list of words they need definitions for. They begin the process again with the new words.

For more information on Subjective Approach to Vocabulary see, Manzo A. & Manzo U. (1990). Content Area Reading: A Heuristic Approach. Columbus, OH: Merrill Publishing Company, pp. 158-161.