

# Word Work Lesson Plan and Activities

Instructional Focus Based on the Words in the Book

**Word Work**  
Marlin Luther King, Jr.  
By: Kitson Jazynka  
Grade Level: 3 / Guided Reading Level: O

**Instructional Focus:**  
Proper Nouns

**Background:**  
Nouns are words that name people, places, or things. Proper nouns are words that name specific people, places, or things and start with a capital letter to help signal.

**Examples:**

Barack Obama	McDonald's
Star Wars	Coca-Cola
China	Eiffel Tower

**Materials and Preparation:**

- A Copy of *Marlin Luther King, Jr.*
- Chart Paper
- Proper Noun Bingo Board (1)
- Stock of magazines, newspapers
- Proper Noun Practice Page
- Optional – Word Detective
- Optional – Proper Noun Four Corners

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**Step 1: Introduce the Focus of Word Work**

**Introduce Proper Nouns**

- Draw the students' attention to the chart paper.
- Explain that we have naming words called nouns. Explain that nouns name people, places, and things. (Example: small man, school, paint brush). Nouns begin with a lowercase letter.
- Explain that when we want to name a specific person, place, or thing, we use proper nouns. (Examples: Albert Einstein, New York, Coca-Cola). Proper nouns begin with a capital letter to show that it is a special name.
- Prompt students to look at the nouns in the first column and the proper nouns in the second column.
- Discuss how the proper nouns in the second column are examples of special or specific names for those nouns.
- Next, have students brainstorm their own proper nouns for each noun that are different from the proper nouns provided. (Examples: boy → Tommy → Matthew).
- Write the brainstormed proper nouns in the third column.

**SAMPLE ANCHOR CHART**

Proper Nouns		
museum → The Smithsonian		
People	boy	Tommy
	teacher	Miss Dawson
	doctor	Dr. Cole
	city	New York
Places	school	Central Elementary School
	country	Egypt
	book	Harry Potter
Things	skate	Coca-Cola
	skateboard	Toy Story
	Proper Nouns from <i>Marlin Luther King, Jr.</i>	

**Step 2: Connect Word Work to Reading**

**Proper Nouns in the Text**

- Tell the students that the text they will be reading today has a lot of proper nouns that name special or specific people, places, and things.
- Show them pages 4 and 5 of *Marlin Luther King, Jr.*
- Tell the students to listen carefully and look at the words while you read. Ask the students to give a thumbs up when they see or hear a word that starts with a capital letter and names something special or specific.
- Tell students that they will see some capital letters that do NOT belong to proper nouns. Remind students that the first letter of each sentence will be capitalized, and that does NOT make those words proper nouns. They will need to pay close attention and make sure they are listening for the special name of a person, place, or thing.
- After reading pages four and five of the text, ask the students to identify the proper nouns that they saw and heard. Add the words to the chart paper.

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Step by Step Lesson Plan

**Proper Noun Four Corners**  
Extend Engagement Four Corners Labels

<b>Proper Nouns</b> <b>PEOPLE</b>	<b>Proper Nouns</b> <b>PLACES</b>
<b>Proper Nouns</b> <b>THINGS</b>	<b>Regular Nouns</b> <b>PEOPLE</b> <b>PLACES</b> <b>THINGS</b>

Extend Engagement Activity | ©BookPagez.com

Optional Activity to Extend Engagement

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**Step 2: Connect Word Work to Reading (Continued)**

**Proper Nouns in the Text**

- Tell the students that you will read the text once from beginning to end. Tell them to be listening for words that name special or specific people, places, and things.
- Remind them to give a thumbs up when they hear or see a proper noun.
- Tell students there are also proper nouns in the captions underneath photos, which you may or may not choose to read aloud.
- Remind students to be polite and not to interrupt you while you read.
- Read *Marlin Luther King, Jr.*

**Proper Nouns found in the text:**

• Marlin Luther King Jr.	• Tennessee	• Atlanta
• Dr. King	• M.L.	• Empire State Building
• Alfred Daniel	• Nobel Peace Prize	• Memphis
• United States	• Georgia	• Auburn Avenue
• Christine	• New York City	• Ebenezer Baptist Church

**Step 3: Guided Word Work Practice**

**Interactive Exploration**

- Explain to students that they are now going to practice what they've learned by playing a game called Proper Noun Bingo.
- Divide students into pairs.
- Give each pair a Proper Noun Bingo board and a stack of magazines, newspapers, or books.
- Explain to students that their job is to hunt for an example of proper nouns for as many boxes on their Bingo card as possible.
- When they find a word, they should write it in the box that matches the category for that proper noun.
  - Example: a student finds the proper noun "Kleenex" in a magazine. They should write it in a box on their Bingo card that says "thing".
- The member of each pair who gets Bingo first, wins!
- End the activity by inviting partners to share their proper nouns with one another.

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List of words in the book that match the instructional focus

Interactive Activity

**Proper Noun Bingo Interactive Activity**

**Directions:**  
Find an example of a proper noun that matches the categories in each box. Write your proper noun in the box. Play until you fill 5 boxes in a row. When you do, call out "Bingo!"

Have fun and good luck!

person	place	thing	person	place
thing	person	place	thing	person
place	thing	<b>FREE</b>	person	place
thing	person	place	thing	person
place	thing	person	place	thing

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**Proper Nouns Word Work Practice Page**

**Directions:**  
Circle the proper nouns in the paragraphs below.

In the busy city of Sparkville, Emma, Oliver, and Jerome gathered at Sunshine Park for a picnic. They spread out a blanket under the shade of a Cherry Blossom Tree and enjoyed delicious treats. They ate Aunt Jenny's famous peanut butter sandwiches, farm-fresh apple slices from Mr. Johnson's Orchard and drank cans of Sprite soda.

Nearby, a talented musician named Melody Mike, strummed his latest song, *Summertime Day*. As the sun began to set, the friends packed up their picnic and made plans to come back to Sunshine Park in Sparkville soon.

**Directions:**  
Choose three of the proper nouns that you circled above and write your own sentences using your chosen proper nouns.  
**Remember to capitalize your proper nouns in your sentences.**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Independent Word Work Practice | ©BookPagez.com

**Word Detective: Proper Nouns Extension Activity**

**Directions:**  
Be a word detective!  
Be on the lookout for proper nouns while you read. Write the word that you find along with the title of the book where you found the word, the page, and the sentence with the word or phrase.

Word	Book Title	Page	Sentence

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Word Work Extension Activity | ©BookPagez.com

Independent Practice Page

Extension Activity