

Word Work Lesson Plan and Activities

Instructional Focus Based on the Words in the Book

Sylvester and the Magic Pebble
By: William Steig
Grade Level: 3 / Guided Reading Level: N

Word Work

Instructional Focus:
Three – Syllable Words

Background:
Words have one or more syllables. A syllable is a unit of pronunciation. A syllable has either a vowel sound or a vowel and one or more consonant sounds. Almost every syllable contains at least one vowel.

Examples:

another
banana
basketball
broccoli
camera

- Materials and Preparation:**
- A Copy of *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble*
 - Chart Paper
 - Syllable Sort Word Page
 - Syllable Sort Game Board
 - Three – Syllable Word Cards
 - Optional – Word Detective Worksheet
 - Optional – 3 Colors of Ink

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Step 1: Introduce the Focus of Word Work

Introduce Three – Syllable Words

- Explain that some words have 3 syllables or three separate vowels. Each syllable must contain a vowel or a vowel and consonant combination.
- Ask students to look at the chart paper and write the word "syllable" at the top of the paper. Pronounce the word "syllable" slowly, emphasizing each syllable as you do. Ask students to repeat the word, emphasizing each syllable too. Show students how to draw lines in the word to separate the syllables.
- Then write the word marshmallow on the chart paper. Emphasize each syllable as you say the word and ask students to repeat it with you. Draw lines to separate the word into 3 syllables. Show students how each syllable contains a vowel.
- Ask students to identify more words that have 3 syllables. Write some of the other 3 syllable words on the chart paper, saying each word aloud and emphasizing the three syllables. Encourage students to clap out the syllables if you choose.

Sample Anchor Chart

Three – Syllable Words

syllable
m a r s h m a l l o w
m a r s h m a l l o w

Step 2: Connect Word Work to Reading

Three – Syllable Words in the Text

- Tell the students that the book they will be reading today has many words with 3 syllables.
- Show them page 1 of *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble*. Ask students to listen carefully and look at the words while you read. If they hear a word with 3 syllables, they should raise their hand.
- After reading page 1, ask the students to identify the beginning blend words they heard. Add them to the chart paper.
- Tell the students that you are going to read the book once from beginning to end. Tell them to be listening for words with 3 syllables. Remind them to be polite and not to interrupt you while you read.
- Read *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble*.

Examples of Three – Syllable Words Found in the Text:

• Sylvester	• excitement	• bewildered
• collecting	• disappeared	• tired
• unusual	• grateful	• vacation
• Saturday	• anything	• breakfast
• vacation	• relatives	• wandering
• perfectly	• strawberry	• expecting
• studying	• butterfly	• yesterday
• probably	• carefully	

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Step by Step Lesson Plan

Optional Activity to Extend Engagement

List of words in the book that match the instructional focus

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Step 3: Guided Word Work Practice

Interactive Exploration

- Split the class so every child has a partner.
- Distribute the **Syllable Sort Word Page** for each partner pair.
- Distribute the **Syllable Sort Game Board** for each student.
- Ask the partners to work together to cut out the word cards.
- Turn the word cards face down on the table and have the Page 2 game board ready.
- Explain that they will be playing a game called Syllable Sort. Player 1 goes first and chooses a word card. Player 1 should say the word aloud and decide how many syllables the word contains. Player 1 should place the word in the correct column on his or her game board. Player 2 takes a turn and does the same thing, saying the word aloud and placing it in the correct column on his or her game board.
- Continue play until all the words are gone. Ask each player to total up the number of words in each column. The winner is the player with the most 3 syllable words.

Step 4: Independent Word Work Practice

Practice Page

- Give each student a copy of **Three – Syllable Word Work**.
- Read the directions with the class.
- Tell the students to complete the practice page.
- Monitor students while they work.

Step 5: Reconnect and Reflect on Word Work

Group Discussion

- Bring the students back together.
- Ask students to explain what they learned about words based on the work they completed.
- Invite students to turn and talk with a partner about their word work.
- Invite 2-3 students to share what they learned with the group.

Step 6: Extend Word Work (optional)

Extension Activity

- Ask students to be on the lookout for **three – syllable words** in their reading. Tell them to write their words on a sticky note and add them to the anchor chart (review the added sticky notes in the class later in the day or before moving on to the next work lesson).
- Alternatively, students can keep track of the words using the **Word Detective worksheet**.

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Interactive Activities

Syllable Sort Interactive Activity

alligator	birthday	blueberry
breakfast	butterfly	calculator
camera	category	congratulate
dandelion	dinner	discovery
door	elevator	farmer
finger nail	gigantic	government
handsome	historical	imagine
ladybug	marshmallow	motorcycle
napkin	open	powder
sandwiches	slippery	thermometer
toothbrushes	video	vitamin

Directions: Cut out the word cards. Use them with Syllable Sort Game Board (page 2) to play.

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Independent Practice Page

Extension Activity

Word Detective: Three – Syllable Words
Extension Activity

Directions:
Be a word detective!

Be on the lookout for **three – syllable words** 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

Three – Syllable
Word Work Practice Page

Directions:
Divide each word into three syllables. The first one has been done for you.

Sylvester	Syl	ves	ter
Collecting			
Satisfy			
Saturday			
Vacation			
Excitement			
Bewildered			
Forever			
Insisted			
Included			
Sandwiches			

Name: _____ Independent Word Work Practice | @BookPagez.com