

Word Work Lesson Plan and Activities

Instructional Focus Based on the Words in the Book

Word Work

The Day You Begin
By: Jacqueline Woodson
Grade Level: 3 / Guided Reading Level: F

Instructional Focus:
Suffix -er

Background: When -er is found at the end of a word, it can be one of three things:

- a part of the word (Example: brother)
- a suffix that means more (Example: sweeter)
- a suffix that means a person who (Example: painter)

Examples:

Part of the Word	Suffix
flower	fy
brother	er
sister	er
father	ch

Materials and Preparation:

- A Copy of **The Day You Begin**
- Chart Paper
- Markers
- "er" Categories Game Sheet
- ER Sort Practice page (one for each student)
- Optional - Word Detective (1 per student)
- Optional - Sticky Notes, 3 for each student

Optional Activity to Extend Engagement

Step by Step Lesson Plan

List of words in the book that match the instructional focus

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Step 1: Introduce the Focus of Word Work

Introduce Suffix -er

- On the chart, write the words "painter", "sweeter", and "litter". Ask students what they notice about all the words? (Answer: They all end in "er".)
- Ask what the root word of "painter" is? (Answer: paint) Circle it and ask for a volunteer to give a definition of the word "painter". (Answer: Someone who paints.) Point out that in this word the suffix -er makes the verb "paint" into a noun meaning someone who does the action. Ask for volunteers to give 2 more words with the suffix -er that means "someone who". Write them on the chart.
- Ask what the root word of "sweeter" is? (Answer: sweet) Circle it and ask for a volunteer to give the definition of the word "sweeter". (Answer: Something that's more sweet.) Point out that in this word, the suffix -er makes the adjective "sweet" mean more sweet. Ask for volunteers to give 2 more words with the suffix -er that means "more.". Write them on the chart.
- Ask what the root word of "litter" is? (Answer: There isn't one.) Point out that sometimes "er" is just part of the word. Ask for volunteers to give 2 more words that end in "er" where the letters are just part of the word. Add these example to the chart as well.

Sample Anchor Chart

Words Ending in "er"		
"Someone Who"	"More"	Part of the Word
painter	sweeter	litter
baker	runner	flower
runner	longer	mother
teacher	smaller	summer

Step 2: Connect Word Work to Reading

Extend Engagement

- Give each student 3 sticky notes.
- Ask them to look for words that end in "er" during their daily reading. Challenge them to write down one example for each use of "er". Ask them to add their sticky notes on the chart.
- At the end of the day, read over the words on the chart. Be sure to discuss examples and examples: switch columns for the words as needed.

Suffix -er in the Text

- Tell students that you will be reading a story that has many examples of words that end in "er".
- Tell students that you are going to read a page from **The Day You Begin**. Ask them to put up one finger for each time they hear a word that ends in "er".
- Read **page 9** to the students. When you are through, ask how many fingers they have put up. (Answer: 3)
- Have students identify the words. (Answer: smaller, teacher, summer)
- Ask for 3 different volunteers to write the words on the chart, under the correct column.
- Read the entire story to the class. Ask them to listen for words that end in "er".

Some Examples of Words that ends in "er" Found in the Text:

• laughter	• sister	• ever
• flowers	• wonder	• litter
• summer	• other	• teacher
• remember	• mother	• smaller
• stronger	• wider	

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Interactive Activity

Independent Practice Page

Extension Activity

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Step 3: Guided Word Work Practice

Interactive Exploration

- Give each student an "er" categories game sheet.
- Tell students that they are going to play a game using the 3 categories for using "er" at the end of a word. (Explain the categories again, and give an example for each, if necessary.)
- Tell students that you are going to spin the spinner. When it lands on a letter, they must think of one word that begins with that letter, that will fit ONE of the categories. Give a free 30 seconds at this point and ask a volunteer for an answer. Let everyone write that word in the proper column on their page.
- Tell them that you will keep spinning the spinner, and they are to write down one word each time, for one category. Tell them they must do it quietly, so as not to give away any answers. When someone thinks they have all the lines under each category filled in, they raise their hand and say, "ER!"
- Spin the spinner and call out the letter it lands on. Give students a few seconds to think of an answer and write it down. Spin the spinner again.
- Continue this way until someone says, "ER!" Check that person's paper. If all the words are in the correct categories, they win. If they are not all correct, keep playing until someone wins. Give a prize, privilege, or praise to the winner.

Step 4: Independent Word Work Practice

Practice Page

- Pass out ER Sort practice page to each student.
- Ask for a volunteer to read the directions.
- When you are sure that everyone understands the directions, tell them to begin.
- Monitor students as they are working.
- Collect papers when they are finished.

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.

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"er" Categories Game Sheet
Interactive Activity

Directions: Duplicate enough pages for half the students. Cut each page in half. Distribute one half to each student.

ER Categories Game

Directions: The leader will spin the spinner and call out the letter it lands on. Think of a word with a "er" ending that begins with the letter that was called out. Write the word in the correct column, before the leader spins the spinner again. Try to fit in all the lines on your paper.

"er" means "more"	"er" means "someone who"	"er" is part of the word

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ER Sort Practice Page

Directions: Read each sentence below. Look at the underlined word. Decide which category the word belongs in. Write the word under the correct heading.

"er" means "more"	"er" means "someone who"	"er" is part of the word

1. The dancer moved very gracefully across the stage.
2. My sister likes to take us hiking in the woods.
3. That joke was funnier than the other one you told us yesterday.
4. My new shoes are bigger than my old ones.
5. The farmer down the road sold us some hay for our horses.
6. Tonight's math homework is easier than what we did last night.
7. We had fun watching them make apple cider.
8. The painter made the walls in my bedroom purple.
9. We couldn't believe the jester did a back flip.
10. Alex always wins when we play checkers.
11. My mom bought six packs of flower seeds to plant this spring.
12. Our dog is calmer now than he was when he was a puppy.
13. The robber was caught shortly after he stole the money.
14. Amba wants to hire a baller when she plants her garden.
15. Roberto feels lonelier since his friend moved away.

Challenge: Write one sentence that uses at least one word from each category.

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Word Detective: Suffix -er
Extension Activity

Directions:
Be a word detective!
Be on the lookout for words that end in "er" while you read. Write the words that you find along with the title of the book where you found the words, the page, and the sentence with the word or phrase.

Words	Book Title	Page

Name: _____ Word Work Extension Activity | @BookPagez.com