

# Word Work Lesson Plan and Activities

Instructional Focus Based on the Words in the Book

**The True Story of the Three Little Pigs**  
By: Jon Scieszka  
Grade Level: 4 / Guided Reading Level: Q

**Word Work**

**Instructional Focus:**  
Compound Words

**Background:**  
Compound word is two small words joined together to create one large word.  
Compound words are at once simple and complex. These words can be easy to understand but many words are defined as being more complex.

**Examples:**

root + root =
birth + day =
some + one =
cup + cake =
cheese + burger =
snow + ball =
after + noon =

**Materials and Preparation:**

- A Copy of The True Story of the Three Little Pigs
- Compound Word Work
- Compound Word Hunt
- Optional - Word Detective
- Optional - 2 Colors of Ink

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

**Introduce Compound Words**

- Explain that compound words are just like addition problems. When you add two different words together, you get a whole new word. Write 1+2=3 on the board to illustrate.
- Next write cup + cake on the board. Ask students to identify the word that can be made when you add cup and cake together. Write cupcake on the board.
- Repeat this process with the words anybody, housefly, cheeseburger and nightfall.
- Invite students to share more compound word combinations. Write the words they identify on the board or on a piece of chart paper.

**Sample Anchor Chart**

**Compound Words**

rain + bow = rainbow  
milk + bread = milkbread  
bed + room = bedroom  
milk + box = milkbox  
after + noon = afternoon  
house + fly = housefly  
any + body = anybody

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

**Compound Words in the Text**

- Tell the students that the book they will be reading today has a lot of Compound Words.
- Show them pages 2-6 of *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs*. Tell the students to listen carefully and look at the compound words while you read. Ask the students to put a thumb up when they see or hear a compound word.
- After reading, ask the students to identify the compound words that they heard.
- Optional: Begin a Compound Word Anchor Chart - write the words that were heard on the chart.
- Tell the students that you are going to read the book once from beginning to end. Tell them to be listening for compound words. Remind them to be polite and not to interrupt you while you read.
- Read *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs*.

**Extend Engagement**

**Play I Have...Who Has...**

- Create an index card for each child in your class.
- Write a compound word on the front of a card.
- Flip the index card over and write the next compound word using a different colored marker.
- Distribute cards to students.
- Play I Have...Who Has... (I have cheeseburger, Who has doorknob? I have doorknob, Who has somebody?)

cheeseburger → doorknob → somebody

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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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**Word Work**

**Step 3: Guided Word Work Practice**

**Interactive Exploration**

- Invite students to play a game with the text. There are 12 compound words in the *True Story of the Three Little Pigs*. They are: cheeseburger, doorknob, somebody, birthday, someone, maybe, doornail, instead, nobody, without, because, everybody.
- Divide students into groups of 3-4. Give each group a copy of the **Compound Word Hunt**. Note: the worksheet follows the same format as the introductory exercise.
- Because compound words should be familiar to your students challenge them to find the words as quickly as possible.
- Tell your students that the groups will be racing to find the words. The group to correctly find the compound words the fastest wins.
- At the end of the race, go over the words with the whole class, writing them in your columns on the board just as before.
- Be sure to point out tricky words that appear in the text like neighbor, history and sackful. These words look like compound words, but each root doesn't stand on its own.

**Step 4: Independent Word Work Practice**

**Practice Page**

- Give each student a copy of the **Compound Word Work Practice Page**.
- 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 **compound words** in their own reading. Tell them to write their words on a sticky note and add them to the anchor chart (review the added sticky notes with the class later in the day or before moving on to the next word work lesson).
- Alternatively, students can keep track of the words using the **Word Detective worksheet**.

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Interactive Activities

Independent Practice Page

**Compound Word Hunt**  
Interactive Activity

**Directions:**  
Look for the 12 compound words in the book *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs*. Remember that compound words are made up of two separate words that are stuck together.

- \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
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Extension Activity

**Word Detective: Compound Words**  
Extension Activity

**Directions:**  
Be a word detective!  
Be on the lookout for **compound 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

**Compound Words**  
Word Work Practice Page

**Directions:**  
Combine 2 words from the box into one compound word on the lines below. Use each word only once and use all of the words in the box.

**Word Bank**

cup rain butter bed make fly  
one body work burger home time  
team ham cake any fall bow  
some night

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