

WORD WORK LESSON PLAN AND ACTIVITIES

Instructional Focus Based on the Words in the Book

The Widow's Broom
By: Chris Van Allsburg
Grade Level: 4 / Guided Reading Level: R

Word Work

Instructional Focus:
Prepositional Phrase

Background:
A **Prepositional Phrase** is a group of words with a noun or pronoun. The ending noun is the preposition. Prepositional phrases give direction, or time.

Examples:

through the woods	across the street
to the park	during the summer
around the world	inside the box

Materials and Preparation:

- A Copy of **The Widow's Broom**
- Chart Paper
- Common Prepositions Anchor Chart
- Prepositional Phrases Anchor Chart
- Colored markers
- A rock
- A hardcover book
- sandwich bags to hold cards for each pair of students
- Prepositional Phrases Card Sort, (students)
- Prepositional Phrases Practice Page
- Optional - Word Detective (1 per student)
- Optional - Activity to Extend Engagement

Step 1: Introduce the Focus of Word Work

Introduce Prepositional Phrases

- Draw students' attention to the Common Prepositions Anchor Chart.
- Tell students that a preposition is a word that is used before a noun or pronoun and gives more information.
- Show students the chart of common prepositions.
- Explain that today, you will focus on prepositional phrases that provide more information about location, direction, or time.
- Show students the rock and explain that this special rock is a tool you will use to learn about prepositions and prepositional phrases.
- Demonstrate setting the rock on the hard cover book and say "on".
- Move the rock under the book and say "under".
- Explain that we can use many of the words on the preposition list to show the location of the rock.
- Write "The rock is on the book" on the chart paper you prepared ahead of time with the definition of a Prepositional Phrase.
- Put a colored box around the word "on" and label it as a preposition.
- Underline "on the book" and explain that this is a prepositional phrase because it is a group of words that begins with the preposition "on", ends with the noun "book", and tells us the location of the rock.
- Ask the students to help you add more examples to the list. Hold the rock by the spine of the book and call on students to give a prepositional phrase to describe the rock's location. Remind them to begin with a preposition from the list. Write their responses ("near the book", "by the book", "beside the book" on the chart paper.
- Demonstrate examples of direction by moving the rock in relation to the book. Tell students the rock is moving "past the book" or "toward the book".
- Invite students to box the preposition and underline the prepositional phrases of the given examples.

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Step by Step Lesson Plan

Optional Activity to Extend Engagement

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Step 2: Connect Word Work to Reading

Extend Engagement

- Select a student to begin. The student will take the rock used in the instruction lesson and the rock will call on students to describe a preposition's location with "near the calculator".
- Encourage students to come up with as many prepositional phrases as they can to specify where the rock is.
- Challenge students to extend prepositional phrases for location and include directional and time phrases such as walking with the rock "toward the door" and going again "after lunch".

Prepositional Phrases in the Text

- Tell the students that the book they will read today has several examples of prepositional phrases.
- Point out a few prepositional phrases as you read the first few pages of **The Widow's Broom**.
- Discuss whether the phrases give us more information about location, direction, or time.
- On **page 7** tell the students they will now identify prepositional phrases on their own as you read. Tell them that holding up their fist signals a rock. They should quietly show their rock (their fist) when they hear prepositional phrases in the text.
- Students can listen and signal for prepositional phrases as you continue reading the text.

Examples of Prepositional Phrases Found in the Text:

- from the bed
- through the widow's house
- in a chair
- by the fireplace
- on the hearth
- into the flame
- beside the fire
- toward the garden
- over the tree tops

Step 3: Guided Word Work Practice

Interactive Exploration

- Tell students that understanding prepositional phrases will help them visualize while reading and elaborate and add clarity in their writing.
- Remind them that prepositional phrases give information about location, direction, or time.
- Explain that they will work in partnerships to sort prepositional phrases by type.
- Give each partnership a **bag of cut phrase cards**.
- Tell students there is a slip that includes the headings "Location", "Direction", and "Time". They will sort prepositional phrases in the correct columns under the headings.
- Instruct students to discuss and justify their thinking.

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List of words in the book that match the instructional focus

Prepositional Phrases Card Sort Interactive Activity

Location	Direction	Time
At the beach	Through the woods	Before noon
In the car	To the zoo	After dark
On the mountain	Toward the door	In a week
By the cafeteria	Around the block	Throughout the day
On the chair	Against the wind	Until midnight
Behind the bookshelf	Up the hill	Between meals
In a notebook	Along the path	During dinner

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Interactive Activities

Independent Practice Pages

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Step 4: Independent Word Work Practice

Practice Page

- Give each student a copy of **Prepositional Phrases** 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 **prepositional phrases** 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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Word Detective: Prepositional Phrases Extension Activity

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

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Word Detective

Answer Key for Prepositional Phrases Word Work Practice Page

Part 1: For each sentence, put a box around the preposition and underline the prepositional phrase. Remember prepositional phrases begin with a preposition and end with a noun or pronoun.

- The students ate their lunch in the classroom.
- They did the
- There is a rock
- By the river.
- The fire crack

Part 2: Prepositional Phrases give information about Location, Direction, or Time. Label each show what information the prepositional phrase offers. Then rewrite the sentence with a new prepositional phrase.

Example: The rambunctious, the rambunctious.

- They're going
- They're
- We baked
- We baked

Part 2: Prepositional Phrases give information about Location, Direction, or Time. Label each sentence with **L** for Location, **D** for Direction, or **T** for Time to show what information the prepositional phrase offers. Then rewrite the sentence with a new prepositional phrase of a different type. Label the type of your new prepositional phrase.

Example: The rambunctious puppies played inside their pen. L
The rambunctious puppies played until it was dark. T

- They're going for a drive along the beach. _____
- We baked delicious cupcakes before dinner. _____

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