

# WORD WORK LESSON PLAN AND ACTIVITIES

Instructional Focus Based on the Words in the Book

**Watercress**  
By: Andrea Wang  
Grade Level: 3 / Guided Reading Level: N

**Word Work**

**Instructional Focus:**  
Spelling and reading words with r-controlled vowels

**Background:**  
In the English language, each syllable in a word contains a vowel sound. R-controlled vowels have a vowel (a,e,i,o,u) followed by the letter "r". The two letters are pronounced as one sound. Some examples of r-controlled vowels are ir, er, or, ar, and ur. Sometimes it's referred to as the "bossy r" because you hear the r sound more than the vowel.

Multisyllabic words are words with 2 or more syllables.

**Examples:**

ar	er	ir	or	ur	ear	uir
card mark	herd clerk	birth shirt				
cardstock market	sneaker minister	birthday circle				

**Watercress**  
By: Andrea Wang  
Grade Level: 3 / Guided Reading Level: N

**Word Work**

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

**R-Controlled Vowels in the Text**

- Tell students that today, you'll be reading a book called **Watercress** and it has a lot of examples of words with r-controlled vowels.
- Show students the cover and page 3. Read the page aloud and ask students to identify which words contain an r-controlled vowel (horizon, jerking, sharp).

**R-Controlled Vowels found in the text:**

(cover) wa ir cress

The tops of the combs make lines that zigzag across the horizon. (pg. 3)

horzon

The car comes to a jerking stop. (pg. 3) jerking

Mom's eyes are as sharp as the tip of a dragon's claw. (pg. 3)

sharp

They underneath a brown paper bag, rusty scissors. (pg. 3)

un erth scis ors

Materials and Preparation:

- A Copy of **Watercress** by Andrea Wang
- Chart paper for anchor chart
- Markers
- Prepared a set of word cards
- "Read It, Spot It, Write It" Recording Sheet
- Personal whiteboards and dry-erase markers
- R-Controlled Vowels practice page
- Optional - Word Detective Extension Activity
- Optional - "How Many Syllables" game

**Extend Engagement**

- Play "How Many Syllables?" while standing in line, during a transition, or as a wrap-up to the lesson.
- The teacher (or a student helper) reads an r-controlled word from the anchor chart.
- Then, students hold up a number with their fingers to show the number of syllables in the word.

Word Work Lesson Plan | @BookPagez.com

Step by Step Lesson Plan

Optional Activity to Extend Engagement

List of words in the book that match the instructional focus

**Watercress**  
By: Andrea Wang  
Grade Level: 3 / Guided Reading Level: N

**Word Work**

**Step 3: Guided Word Work Practice**

**Interactive Exploration**

- Note:** This activity can be differentiated by deciding ahead of time which students should work with one-syllable words, and which students should work with multisyllabic words.
- Divide students into pairs based on the set of words you'd like them to work with.
- Give each pair of students the correct set of cards along with two recording pages (1 page per student).
- Introduce the partner activity called "Read It, Spot It, Write It". Invite a pair of students to help you model how to play the game.
- Turn the cards face down between the two players.
- Partner 1 flips over a card. Once the card is flipped over, Partner 1 should read the word, underline the r-controlled vowel, and write it on their recording sheet.
- Next, Partner 2 flips over a card, reads the card, underlines the r-controlled vowel, and writes it on their recording sheet.
- Tell students they can help each other read the words and spot the r-controlled vowels.
- Direct students to continue playing until all the word cards are used, or until the recording sheet is filled up.

**Step 4: Independent Word Work Practice**

**Practice Page**

- Give each student a copy of the **R-Controlled Vowel 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.

Word Work Lesson Plan | @BookPagez.com

Interactive Activities

**Read It, Spot It, Write, It**  
Recording Sheet

Word 1: Draw:	Word 1: Draw:
Word 1: Draw:	Word 1: Draw:
Word 1: Draw:	Word 1: Draw:
Word 1: Draw:	Word 1: Draw:

**Multisyllabic Word Cards**  
R-Controlled Vowels

person

doctor

forest

turnip

monster

furniture

Guided Word Work Practice | @BookPagez.com

Independent Practice Page

**Word Detective: R-Controlled Vowels**  
Extension Activity

**Directions:**  
Be a word detective!  
Be on the lookout for r-controlled 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

**R-Controlled Vowels**  
Word Work Practice Page

**Directions:** Read each phrase or sentence from **Watercress** and circle the word with the r-controlled vowel. Then, write the circled word on the chart at the bottom of the page based on which r-controlled vowel it has.

- Roots dripping dirty water
- Onto my shirt
- There are tiny snails clinging to the underside.
- The paper is soaked
- Our original destination
- Long forgotten.
- On the dinner table, that night is a dish
- I only want to eat vegetables from the grocery store.
- Returning with an old photo
- My family from before
- It bites me back with its spicy, peppery taste.
- It is delicate and slightly bitter.
- Together we eat it all

**Write the circled words in this r-controlled chart:**

ir	er	ur	or

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

Word Detective