A Picnic with Pals

Teacher Instructions

Phonics Focus: Two-syllable words with a 'y' that spells the long 'e' sound

WARM-UP WORDS* **study** give ♥ have ♥ *time*

DECODABLE PASSAGE

My mom and her pals, Cathy and Vicky, are some fun gals. 12
Sometimes they plan picnics up on the hilltop. When they go, they 24
have to study the land to find a flat spot to sit on. If they are lucky, it 42
will be a pretty day that is not windy or foggy, and they will get to 58
see a pretty sunset. 62

They all have things they bring to the picnic. Cathy brings the 74
napkins, cups, and a fluffy mat for them to sit on. Vicky brings fizzy 88
drinks and the best sticky buns. Mom brings them a yummy 99
sandwich, some bags of carrots, and some fuzzy blankets for if it 111
gets chilly. 113

The picnic gives them a lot of time to chat and catch up. Mom says 128
it's the best time with her pals. 135

Language Comprehension Extension

VOCABULARY sunset, lucky, chilly

QUESTIONS

Why do Mom and her friends go up on the hilltop?
What do Mom and her friends do at the picnic?
What do they hope to see?
What are some of the things they bring to the picnic?
How does Mom feel about the time with her friends?

*Key for Warm-up Words: **Dolch words aligned to the focus pattern** | Heart Words ♥ | *Decodable Dolch words outside the sequence*

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A Picnic with Pals

WARM-UP WORDS

study give have *time*

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They all have things they bring to the picnic. Cathy brings the napkins, cups, and a fluffy mat for them to sit on. Vicky brings fizzy drinks and the best sticky buns. Mom brings them a yummy sandwich, some bags of carrots, and some fuzzy blankets for if it gets chilly.

The picnic gives them a lot of time to chat and catch up. Mom says it's the best time with her pals.

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The Insect Mascot

Teacher Instructions

Phonics Focus: Two-syllable words with the closed-syllable spelling pattern

WARM-UP WORDS* ♥ talk ♥ walk ♥ find ♥ kind

DECODABLE PASSAGE

Robin and Patrick are on the hunt to find an insect that is common and has six legs. It also has to walk, not fly. This insect will be the mascot for a class project. When they find it, they will also sketch it.

Robin and Patrick go on a walk. They get next to bugs on stalks of grass and on the stems of plants. They get on top of rocks to see the insects. It is fun to see all kinds of bugs, but they must finish by sunset.

Patrick said, "Can we talk and see if this black bug has all of the things on our checklist? I think it is a stink bug. It can be the mascot. It was at all of the spots we went to on our walk."

"Yes," said Robin. "It has six legs. It walks and does not fly. It is common to us. It will be the mascot. Sketch it!"

Language Comprehension Extension

VOCABULARY mascot, common, project, sketch, stalk, sunset

QUESTIONS

Why are Patrick and Robin hunting for insects?

What things must they watch for when they look for the insect?

Why did they think the black bug must be common?

What does it mean to sketch something?

*Key for Warm-up Words: ♥ Heart Words

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The Insect Mascot

WARM-UP WORDS

talk walk kind find

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The Junk Shop

Teacher Instructions

Phonics Focus: Two-syllable words with the closed-syllable spelling pattern

WARM-UP WORDS* ♥ kind ♥ find *called*

DECODABLE PASSAGE

Magnus and Elsa went for a walk to find a gift for Grandad. 13
"There is a junk shop," said Elsa. "There are all kinds of things in that 28
shop." 29

They had a hunch that this was the spot to find something for him. 43

On one wall, there were things like a hubcap, a softball bat, and a plastic 58
chicken. In a box, there were lipsticks and lockets. In a closet, there were 72
jackets, a helmet, and a Turkish rug. Grandad did not want this stuff! The 86
children began to think this was a bad spot to find a gift until they saw 102
the albums! 104

Up on a shelf, there were a bunch of albums in a bin. Grandad was in a 121
rock band for a bit! 126

"We cannot get him two albums," said Magnus. "We must find one we 139
think he will want." 143

In the end, Magnus and Elsa got an album called "Fast on the Runway." 157

"It will be the best gift," Magnus said. 165

Language Comprehension Extension

VOCABULARY junk, hubcap, locket, album, runway

QUESTIONS

Where did Magnus and Elsa find a gift for Grandad?
What kinds of things did they see in the shop?
Why did the children begin to think they would not find a gift?
What was the gift they decided on?

*Key for Warm-up Words: ♥ Heart Words | *Decodable Dolch words outside the sequence*

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The Junk Shop

WARM-UP WORDS

kind find *called*

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The Man with the Velvet Hat

Teacher Instructions

Phonics Focus: Two-syllable words with schwa

WARM-UP WORDS* **second** **seven** ♥ baby

DECODABLE PASSAGE

Bennett came to model tricks for the kids. He had on a black velvet hat and a red jacket. He had a box with lots of things in it to do his tricks.

"Do you think this baby rabbit can vanish?" said Bennett.
All the kids said, "No!
The baby rabbit went into the velvet hat.
Bennett said, "Kazam!"
All of a sudden, there was no rabbit. The hat was empty! Across from Bennett, there was a basket. The rabbit was in it!

For the second trick, Bennett held up a big red box for the kids to see.
He said to the kids, "There is nothing in this box, you see. It is empty."
The kids said, "Yes!"
Bennett put the lid on the box.
He said, "I will snap; and on my second snap, you all yell 'Kazam!'"
Snap! Snap!
All of the kids said, "Kazam!"

Then Bennett got the lid off the box. In the box, there were seven long, thick ribbons. We did not expect that!

Bennett did twenty tricks! There were lots of claps from all of the children.

Language Comprehension Extension

VOCABULARY expect, vanish, velvet

QUESTIONS

What kind of job does the man in the velvet hat have?
What tricks did the man do?
What does the man say right before each trick?
How do the children feel?

*Key for Warm-up Words: **Dolch words aligned to the focus pattern** | ♥ Heart Words

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The Man with the Velvet Hat

WARM-UP WORDS

second **seven** baby ♥



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The Paper Jet

Teacher Instructions

Phonics Focus: Multisyllable words with open syllables

WARM-UP WORDS* **even** **fly** **later** **open** **over** **paper** word ♥ work ♥ world ♥

DECODABLE PASSAGE

Grandma was sitting at her desk working hard on a plan for her job. Tao and Drago were on the porch working on a paper jet that had a letter inside for her. When they were done, they sent the paper jet flying over her desk. It landed in her lap. 15 30 44 51

"What in the world are you two doing?" asked Grandma. 61
"Drago and I sent you a letter. Open it up. It has a secret in it," said Tao. 79

Grandma opened up the letter. It said, "You are our hero! We are thankful for all you do for us." 93 99

Grandma grinned and said, "Thanks, Tao and Drago. This is the best secret!" 112

Tao and Drago blushed. 116

"I also saw that all the words are spelled correctly. You had no errors. You even had correct grammar," said Grandma. 131 137

She grabbed the children and gave them a big hug. 147

"Can I request a second paper jet?" she asked. 156

Tao and Drago said, "Yes! We will begin a second one later on." 169

Language Comprehension Extension

VOCABULARY hero, blushed, errors, grammar, request

QUESTIONS

What did the kids make for Grandma?

Why did Grandma grab Tao and Drago and give them a hug?

What compliment did Grandma give about the letter?

What is another word for paper jet?

*Key for Warm-up Words: **Dolch words aligned to the focus pattern** | Heart Words ♥

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The Paper Jet

WARM-UP WORDS

even **fly** **later** **open** **over** **paper** word ♥ work ♥ world ♥

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The Red Robin Rocket

Teacher Instructions

Phonics Focus: Two-syllable words with schwa

WARM-UP WORDS* **robin** **second** **seven** *called*

DECODABLE PASSAGE

Bridget had a class project. She had to get a rocket to fly. She called her rocket the Red Robin. 17 20

Bridget was happy to get to model her project for the public. Seven of the kids from her class were sitting on soft blankets in the grass. The moms and dads sat in the back. They were all there to watch. 36 52 61

She set up the Red Robin and lit the string. But there was a problem. The rocket did not go up. Bridget was frantic! She did not expect that to happen! 78 92

She went to check the rocket. The string on the rocket was wet! 105
"That has to be the problem," she said. 113

Bridget got a fresh packet of string from her bag and put it on the Red Robin. 130
She set it up for a second attempt. Then she lit the string. 143

10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1! Blast off! 146
The rocket went up! 150

Language Comprehension Extension

VOCABULARY attempt, expect, frantic, packet, problem, public, rocket

QUESTIONS

What is the Red Robin?

Who was at this public event?

Why was Bridget frantic?

How did she fix the problem?

*Key for Warm-up Words: **Dolch words aligned to the focus pattern** | *Decodable Dolch words outside the sequence*

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The Red Robin Rocket

WARM-UP WORDS

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The Tennis Match

Teacher Instructions

Phonics Focus: Three-syllable words with short vowels and schwa

WARM-UP WORDS* **animals** **beginning** **family** any ♥ many ♥ *members*

DECODABLE PASSAGE

Destiny had a tennis match in Wisconsin. They were going to travel there by bus. 13 15

She expected her family to come to her tennis match, but she was astonished to see so many of her pals. They wanted to see her win the match, and she wanted them to see her do her best! 28 43 54

Destiny had on her lucky socks and had her best racket. She was pumped up! 68 69

At the beginning of the match, she was winning by two. Then she was distracted by two animals that were yapping in the stands! She slipped and fell. 83 95 97

Destiny got up and began, but she was finding it difficult to get her mind back in the match. She missed some shots, and it was not going well. 112 126

Destiny wanted to finish strong! The last seconds of the match were stressful! She did not have any moment to rest. She ended up hitting a fantastic backhand shot. Her opponent hit it back to her, and Destiny slammed the ball! Destiny ended up being the champ! 138 152 164 173

Language Comprehension Extension

VOCABULARY match, racket, stands, opponent, stressful

QUESTIONS

What is another word for astonished?

What distracted Destiny?

How did the last minutes of the match feel to Destiny?

How did Destiny win?

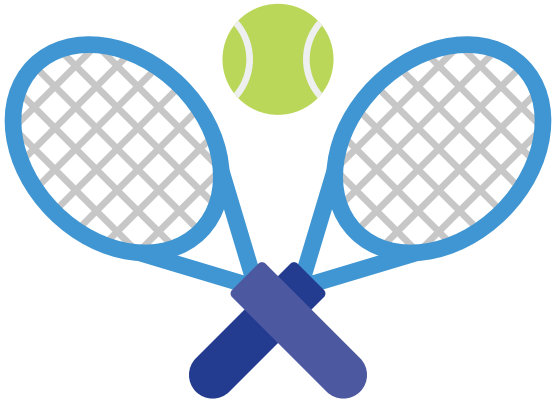
*Key for Warm-up Words: **Dolch words aligned to the focus pattern** | Heart Words ♥ | *Decodable Dolch words outside the sequence*

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The Tennis Match

WARM-UP WORDS

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Watching the Buffalo and Elk

Teacher Instructions

Phonics Focus: Multisyllable words with open syllables

WARM-UP WORDS* ♥ another ♥ brother ♥ mother

DECODABLE PASSAGE

At dusk one evening, my family went to a vast grassy spot to watch the animals that go there for dinner. The sun was just beginning to set. This was the perfect moment to see the animals. 15 29 37

The buffalo were walking in the grass. They had shaggy thick fur, big chests, short legs, and tall horns. They stopped often to get big clumps of grass and to drink water from the river. 50 64 72

My mother whispered to my brothers and me, “Be silent. The animals are shy. They will relax if we are quiet. They will not run from us if we respect them.” 85 103

Just then, another herd of animals came to the river. What luck! They had thick fur, tall antlers, but long legs. The herd of elk were just as pretty as photos I saw on my computer. 117 133 139

My family sat silently and watched the herds until it was dark. Then the buffalo and elk walked beside the river, far beyond the trees and brush, to find a spot to nap. 153 167 172

Language Comprehension Extension

VOCABULARY dusk, evening, clumps, herd, antlers, brush

QUESTIONS

When is the perfect moment to see buffalo and elk?

What animals did they see?

Why did they have to stay silent?

Where were the herds of animals headed once it was nighttime?

*Key for Warm-up Words: ♥ Heart Words

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Watching the Buffalo and Elk

WARM-UP WORDS

another brother mother

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