



HAPPY ENDINGS: A STORY ABOUT SUFFIXES

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illustrated by Lynn Rowe Reed

GRADES
PRE–3

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ABOUT THE BOOK

Yikes! Mr. Wright announces that word endings will be tackled after lunch. The suffixes written on Mr. Wright's board are in a tizzy. How can they defend themselves and prove that suffixes are helpful?

The creators of *Punctuation Takes a Vacation*, *Nouns and Verbs Have a Field Day*, and *Silent Letters Loud and Clear* have created another memorably whacky language arts picture book, this time about suffixes.

QUESTIONS FOR THE CLASSROOM

- What is a suffix?
- What does *past tense* mean?
- Why did all the word endings in the book feel happy?
- Besides *helpful* and *joyful*, two endings used in the book, what are other happy, positive “ful” words?
- Why did all the endings become sad?
- The children in the story made posters to help find the missing suffixes. Using a variety of word endings, make a poster for your classroom announcing an upcoming event or celebration.
- The suffixes in the book used “ing” words to feel stronger and braver. List five “ing” words that you can do to feel stronger and then list five “ed” words that you did/have done to feel stronger and use each in a sentence.
- Try to decipher the clues that the word endings used when they decided to hide—before your teacher turns the page!

ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

LANGUAGE ARTS ♦ WORD ENDINGS WORD MATCH

Write the suffix from the first column on the blank line of the appropriate clue from *Happy Endings* (p.32):

- | | | |
|------|-------|---|
| ful | _____ | 1. Add me to a verb, and you've got the person who's doing the action. |
| less | _____ | 2. We're added to nouns to make them plural. |
| ness | _____ | 3. Usually I hook onto an adjective. I like to be fastest and smartest. But when I'm laziest, I'm also the slowest. (What changed in <i>lazy</i> ?) |
| er | _____ | 4. Added to the end of a noun, I make an adjective. |
| ed | _____ | 5. Add me to an adjective to make a noun. |
| s es | _____ | 6. Added to the end of a noun, I make it go away. |
| y | _____ | 7. If you add me to <i>week</i> , it means "every week." I can also make an adjective out of a noun. |
| est | _____ | 8. I can make a word be full of itself. |
| ly | _____ | 9. Add me to a verb to make it past tense. |

ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND THE ILLUSTRATOR

Robin Pulver, the author of *Punctuation Takes a Vacation* and its companion, *Nouns and Verbs Have a Field Day*, as well as *Silent Letters Loud and Clear* and other popular picture books for children, lives in upstate New York. Visit her online at www.RobinPulver.com.

Lynn Rowe Reed is the creator of many humorous picture books for children, including *Oliver, the Spaceship, and Me* and *Color Chaos*, both of which she wrote and illustrated. She is also the illustrator of Robin Pulver's *Punctuation Takes a Vacation, Nouns and Verbs Have a Field Day, and Silent Letters Loud and Clear*. She lives in Indiana, and you can visit her online at www.lynnrowereed.com.

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