Happy Endings: A Story About Suffixes

Robin Pulver
illustrated by Lynn Rowe Reed

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 lazy?)
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 week, 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


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.