Synopsis

Students climb to new heights in reading and writing with these fun, engaging, reproducible word-building games! Students read clues on each rung, then change and rearrange letters to create words until they reach the top. All the while, they're analyzing sound-symbol relationships, broadening their vocabulary, and building spelling skills to become better readers. For use with Grades 1-2.

Book Information

Paperback: 176 pages
Publisher: Scholastic Teaching Resources (November 1, 2008)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0545074762
Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 8.3 x 11 inches
Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (77 customer reviews)
Best Sellers Rank: #13,760 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #12 in Books > Reference > Words, Language & Grammar > Vocabulary, Slang & Word Lists > Vocabulary #29 in Books > Textbooks > Education > Elementary Education #30 in Books > Education & Teaching > Schools & Teaching > Instruction Methods > Language Arts
Age Range: 6 - 7 years
Grade Level: 1 - 2

Customer Reviews

I teach resource special ed, and it is always a challenge to find something that the students LIKE to do. This is it! Everyday we "do a ladder". I give help and prompting based on the students need. It is easy to tailor this for each student. It improves their vocabulary and teaches them how to think. I have used this series with students from 2nd grade through 5th grade. I LOVE this series.

This is a must have for any teacher to keep in their bag of tricks. Whether you have students work independantly or as a whole class these quick vocabulary exercises breath energy back into students between teaching lessons. I actually tear out the pages and slip them into sheet protectors. Then I let the students work independantly with expo markers. They always want to know when we can do more!
I bought this to add to our homeschooling curriculum. I gave it to my first grade son hoping for a fun way to have him think about words - how they are spelled, how they relate to one another, etc. It’s been fun, it doesn’t take long and it requires him to use his brain. I love it!

I have both the 1-2 and 2-3 versions of this workbook. I teach 2nd grade. I like this idea; however, the 1-2 is too easy for my students and the 2-3 is too difficult. There are some fairly obscure words on the 2-3 version...

My son is four and a half, and will be entering kindergarten in the fall. I wanted to prepare him (and us!) as much as I could, so we treat this book like homework. Every night we sit down for 10-20 minutes, completing a page or three, and while it’s educational, it’s also a lot of fun for us as a family. To complete a "ladder" you’re given a 3- to 4-letter word at the base. The next rung asks you to change either a vowel, the last letter, first letter, etc., and gives you a clue as to what the answer should be (ie: this is a sticky substance that comes from trees - sap). You change a letter on each rung, until you have the finished word at the top. I love this book for several reasons. First, the words are challenging but perfectly readable for a 4-year old, and my son feels accomplished by the time he’s finished a page and has read all the words on his own. Second, it introduces concepts like "vowel" and teaches how the letters come together to make sounds. By playing a game with the ladder, you see how changing the vowel changes the whole word, or how endings sound the same even when you change the start of a word. We have fun rhyming while doing the exercises. Last, anything that makes learning fun for my son is a huge plus for me. After the first week, he asked to do a ladder without my even mentioning it, and now we look forward to it every evening. Since it’s in black and white and with large outlines, we even color the pictures on the ladder when we’re done. My only complaint is the price. At almost thirteen dollars it seems a bit steep for 150 pages, but for the fun we’ve had, I find it more than worth it!

I love this book. It’s easy enough that my son (6y old) enjoys doing the ladders and he doesn’t even realize he is learning a lot!! Highly recommend it.

I bought these word ladders for my child (age 6) who is homeschooled. She LOVES them and wants to do at least one after every phonics lesson. We call them her ‘word games’ and they are her reward for finishing her phonics work. The words start out easy and get progressively harder as you
move through the book. Unlike her phonics book which only gives the beginning and end words of the ladder, this book gives you the first word and clues (word definition + which letter to change) to help the child move up the ladder. My daughter doesn’t see these ladders as school work, just as games. I love that she is excited to do them and is learning spelling, vocabulary, and phonics. It’s a win-win! If you are using them with younger children, you could certainly give them a word bank for the more challenging ladders towards the back of the book :) I only wish the manufacturer had made the pages perforated since they are meant to be photocopied. If you are a homeschooler, you could also just slip the pages in sheet protectors and use dry erase markers so the sheets could be reused. I might take my copy to the local office supply store to have them take off the spine. It’s just a buck or two and then the pages can be photocopied or put into plastic sleeves more easily. You could certainly just write in the book if you want to do that too.

Five stars for word ladders! I love the concept. This said, I bought it for my [advanced] kindergardener and it got to hard FAST. I think it really is for 1st or 2nd grade. I’ll be trying again with my daughter next year.

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