

The Thankful Reader



A Literature and Word Study Companion for Grade 2-3



Explore gratitude through meaningful stories, build literacy skills and discover the people who make a difference.



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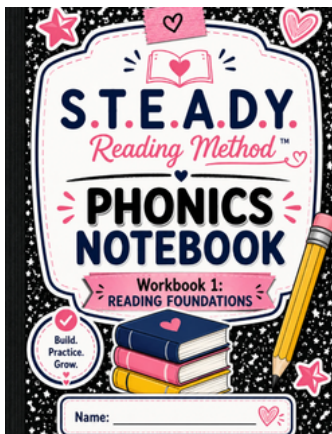
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You May Also Like



I'm so glad you're here—whether you're new or have been following along for a while, welcome 

I'm Costa, an educator with over 25 years in the classroom and a homeschool mom who truly understands what this journey can feel like. These days, I spend my time creating simple, meaningful resources that help you teach your child with confidence—without the overwhelm.

Everything I create is rooted in what actually works with kids, especially those who need a little extra support. My goal is to make learning feel doable, calm, and effective in your home.

I truly hope this resource supports you and makes your days feel just a little bit lighter.

If you ever have a question or feel stuck, please reach out—I'm always here to help.

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for being here and supporting what I create. It truly means so much!

Costa 

Parent Guide

This lesson is designed to help you explore gratitude through a meaningful read-aloud of the book **Thank You, Mr. Falker** by Patricia Polacco. The activities can also be use with other picture books about gratitude, kindness or people who help others.

How to Use the Activities

1. Read

Enjoy a read-aloud and have a conversation about the story.

2. Discuss

Use the vocabulary and comprehension pages to deepen understanding.

3. Learn

Complete the phonics and morphology activities using your child's current reading I. level.

4. Write

Help your child plan and write a thank-you letter.

5. Celebrate

Encourage your child to deliver their letter to the person they wrote about.



Adapting for Different Books

While this resource uses **Thank You, Mr. Falker** as an example, the activities are written to be flexible. You can substitute vocabulary words, character names and examples from any suitable gratitude-themed book.

Words That Matter

Write a sentence and draw a picture for each word.

Gratitude

Feeling thankful for someone or something.

Encouragement

Words or actions that give someone confidence to keep trying.

Preseverance

Continuing to work toward something even when it is difficult.

A Character's Journey

How did the main character's feelings change throughout the story?



At the Beginning

How did the character feel? What was happening?



In the Middle

What changed? How did the character feel?



At the End

How did the character feel? What helped them?

The Power of Kindness

How did someone's actions make a difference in the story?

Someone's actions

What did the person do to help?



The difference it made

How did those actions help the character?

Someone's actions

What did the person do to help?



The difference it made

How did those actions help the character?

Someone's actions

What did the person do to help?



The difference it made

How did those actions help the character?

Phonics Detective

The Long A Sound: ai and ay

The letters **ai** and **ay** can both spell the long /a/ sound.

Spelling rule:
ai says /a/ in the middle
ay says /a/ at the end

ai words	ay words
rain aim train paint wait brain sail snail	play stay day may say way tray hay



A. Sort the Words

Write the words below in the correct column.

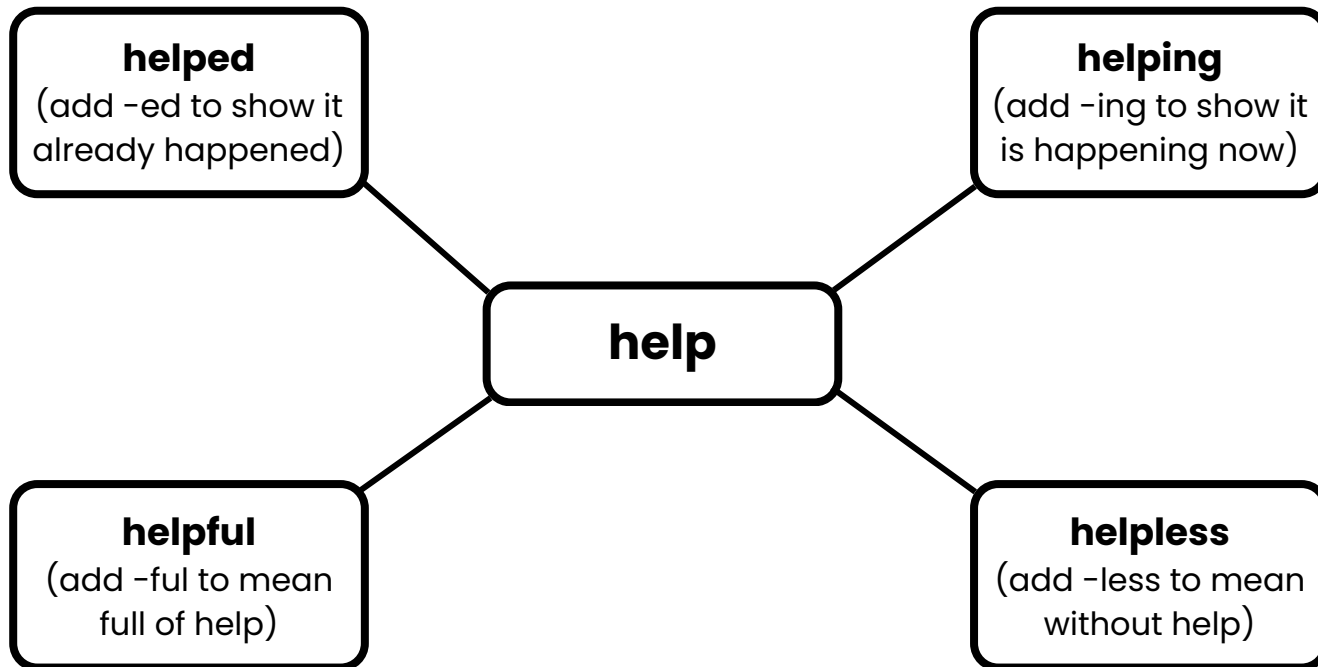
play	rain	stay	train
day	wait	may	paint
hay	aim	say	way

ai	ay

Word Builders

How word parts change meaning.

We can add word parts to a base word to create new words.
These word parts are called prefixes and suffixes.



A. Complete the Chart

Word	Meaning	Use each word in a sentence
help		
helped		
helpful		
helpless		

A Letter of Gratitude

Write a thank-you letter to someone who has helped you.

Plan Your Letter

Who are you thankful for?	What did they do?	Why does it matter to you?

Dear _____,

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal black ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

Sincerely,

