Clothesline Clues to Jobs People Do

Teacher’s Guide
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A clever introduction to careers.

The clothes and special gear associated with professions appear on and around seven clotheslines. Spot the mail carrier’s uniform, the artist’s brushes, or the chef’s apron, and then turn the page to reveal the professional wearing and using the featured items.

Before Reading
Show the children the cover of the book. Have them answer the following questions:
- What do you think this book is about?
- What is a clothesline used for? How else could you wash and dry clothes?
- What is a uniform? Where do people wear uniforms?

1. Point out the cat in the bottom right hand corner of the cover. Ask the class to identify what animal it is and what noise it makes. Then ask the class to make up a name for the cat. Explain that the cat is hidden throughout the pages of the book. Hint: She appears eight times.

2. Explain that a verb is a word that expresses an action like running, an event, or a state of being. Practice identifying verbs by acting out common verbs such as to run, to read and to sleep before reading.

During Reading
1. Ask the children the following questions each time a job is revealed:
   - What does a ____________ (ex: farmer) do?
   - What items in the picture hint at this job?
2. Have the children make sound effects throughout the book. They can:
   - **Cock-a-doodle-doo** when they see a rooster
   - **Cluck** when they see a chicken
   - **Squawk** when they see a bird
   - **Meow** when they see the cat

3. Whenever the class finds the cat and meows ask them:
   - Where is the cat hiding?
   - What is it doing?

   Explain that the word that they used to describe what the cat is doing is a verb. For example, if a child says
   that the cat is running explain that running is an action, so the word running is a verb. Make a list on the
   board with the verbs the children discover in the book.

**After Reading**

Ask the children the following questions:
- What event was the mail carrier carrying invitations to everyone for?
- What was your favorite job from the book?

**Activities**

- **Arts & Crafts:**
  1. Create a classroom clothesline. Have the students draw a picture of their favorite job and hang it on
     the clothesline. They could also write their names to hang as well.
  2. Have each child write a clue about which job in the story is their favorite. Then have them draw an
     illustration to match. Make a class book out of all the clues and drawings.

- **Career Day:** Invite parents and community visitors from the police department, fire department,
   hospital etc. to come to class in their work attire. Have each person stand up and explain what they do
   and wear at work.

- **Colors:** Show the students the artist’s page in *Clothesline Clues*. Point out that the artist has blue, red,
   and green paints in his paint bag. Print out the t-shirt drawing on pg. 3. Give one to each student with
   cups filled with blue, red and green paint. Have each student experiment with mixing two colors
   together on the paper. What color is made? Explain that blue, red and green are primary colors because
   when they are mixed together they can make so many other colors.

- **Culture:** Have students research different jobs that are unique to different cultures from countries
   around the world. Have each student dress up and present to the class those jobs and explain why each
   job is important to that culture.

- **Language:**
  1. Ask the students: “What do you think rhyming is?” Explain that a word that rhymes with another
     word sounds similar. For example, “candy” rhymes with “sandy” and “dad” rhymes with “sad.” Then
     have the children find all of the words that rhyme in the story. Draw a clothesline on the board and
     hang the words that rhyme together.
  2. Ask the students what job they would like to do and why.
• **Math:** Ask the students: “What do you think estimation is? Explain that estimation means to guess how many of something there is. For example, if you see a bag of jelly beans you could estimate how many jelly beans there are in the bag. Fill different sized containers with a variety of clothespins. Create an “estimation station” in the classroom where the children can go to guess how many clothesline pins are in the different containers.

• **I Spy:**

  Ask the class to find the following objects throughout the book:

  - Laundry basket
  - Match
  - Bucket
  - Bird house
  - Polka-dot bandana
  - Measuring tape
  - Hose
  - Wisk
  - Star map
  - Rolling pin

  - Easel
  - Party invitation
  - Palette
  - Milk bucket
  - Radio
  - Green cart/quad
  - Suspenders
  - Fire extinguisher
  - Hot gloves
  - Measuring cup

  - Picnic basket
  - Nail
  - Entry way mat
  - Goggles
  - Wind mill
  - Rooster
  - Recipe
  - Oven
  - Oxygen tank
  - Ladder

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**T-Shirt Cut Out**