



MULTIMORPHEMIC WORD READING LESSONS

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MULTIMORPHEMIC WORD READING LESSONS

Teaching students the pronunciations and spellings of the most frequently used affixes (prefixes and suffixes) helps students read long words.

The *peel-off* strategy is one approach to doing this (Kearns & Whaley, 2018)¹. In this strategy, students read a printed word after they peel off the prefix and/or suffix. Once the word is identified, students can add back the affixes and accurately read and spell the multimorphemic word.

These resources are intended for instructors and tutors working with elementary students in Grades 3-5 who are experiencing difficulties reading long words. Unit 1 includes five lessons that focus on teaching suffixes and using the *peel-off* strategy to pronounce and spell multimorphemic words.

¹ Kearns, D. M., & Whaley, V. M. (2018). Helping students with dyslexia read long words: Using syllables and morphemes. *Teaching Exceptional Children*, 51(3), 212-225.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0040059918810010>



OVERVIEW OF UNIT 1: READING AND SPELLING WORDS WITH SUFFIXES

LESSON SEQUENCE AND PROCEDURES

There are a series of activities used across Lessons 1-4 in Unit 1. First, the instructor will introduce the meanings of two new suffixes and demonstrate how to use the *peel-off* strategy to break orally stated words into parts. Next, students will practice using the *peel-off* strategy to read multimorphemic words with those suffixes. Then, students will build words with the suffixes. Finally, students will spell multimorphemic words with the target suffixes. After the lesson activities are completed, the instructor will assess students' ability to read and spell multimorphemic words in a list before reading a connected text that contains the same words.

The new suffixes introduced in the first four lessons are:

- Lesson 1. *-ity* and *-ful*
- Lesson 2. *-ive* and *-en*
- Lesson 3. *-ment* and *-or*
- Lesson 4. *-ate* and *-er*

In the last lesson, Lesson 5, the instructor will review the suffixes previously taught across Lessons 1-4. Students will complete the same activities as identified for the earlier lessons but will complete them with the combination of eight suffixes they have learned.

LESSON 3

INSTRUCTION AND PRACTICE WORDS

Suffixes *-ment* and *-or*

1. Introduction & Build Knowledge
 - Instructor Model: *amendment, visitor*
2. Listening
 - Instructor Model: *adornment, collector*
 - Practice: *reflector, improvement, announcement*
3. Reading Words
 - Instructor Model: *adjustment, traitor*
 - Practice: *governor, projector, detector, employment*
4. Making Words
 - Instructor Model: *excitement*
 - Practice: *agreement, involvement, debtor, sculptor, ailment*
5. Spelling Words
 - Instructor Model: *movement*
 - Practice: *amazement, statement, selector, suitor*
6. Assess:
 - *payment, treatment, actor, director, arrangement, sailor, investment, vendor, placement, editor*

LESSON 3

OBJECTIVES:

- Given orally stated multimorphemic words with the suffixes *-ment* and *-or*, students will be able to correctly spell the words with 70% accuracy.
- Given a list of multimorphemic words with the suffixes *-ment* and *-or*, students will be able to correctly read the words with 80% accuracy.
- Given a text containing words with the suffixes *-ment* and *-or*, students will be able to complete the text and correctly read the application words in it with 83% accuracy.

Instructor Materials	Student Materials
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Model lesson plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Copies of word part cards for each student
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Activity 2: Suffix cards printed and cut out	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• White board and marker for each student
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Activity 3: Word part cards printed and cut out	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading multimorphemic words in isolation, student copy
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spelling multimorphemic words assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lined notebook paper and pencil for each student
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading multimorphemic words in isolation assessment, instructor copy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading multimorphemic words in connected text, student copy
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading multimorphemic words in connected assessment text, instructor copy	

Introduction

In this lesson, students will be introduced to words with the suffixes *-ment* and *-or*. This lesson contains multiple short activities that will reinforce identifying the suffixes and using them to read and spell multimorphemic words.

Tell students the purpose of today's lesson:

We will be completing different activities to help us learn to read long words. These long words are called multimorphemic words because they are made up of more than one morpheme, or meaningful part. Examples of morphemes are prefixes, suffixes, and roots or base words. In all of the words we practice in this lesson, we will be adding only suffixes.

LESSON 3

Today we will learn about suffixes. Suffixes are the ending parts of words. The suffixes can change the meaning of the first part of the word or change how that word can be used. For example, adding the suffix -s to the end of the word student changes it from one student to many students. Students is the plural form of the word student. By the end of our lesson, you will be able to read and spell many more multimorphemic words.

Build Knowledge

Teach students the two target suffixes *-ment* and *-or*. Display both suffixes on the board and then explicitly teach them to students:

The first suffix we will learn is -ment. Say it with me, -ment. The suffix -ment can be added to verbs to make a noun that means the action or the result of. Let's look at the word amendment. [Display the word amendment with the suffix underlined and point to amend.] The word amend is a verb that means to change something to improve it. [Point to the suffix -ment.] When we add the suffix -ment to the word amend, it makes the word a noun that means a change to an important document or law to improve it. An example of how to use the word amendment in a sentence is, "The school made an amendment to the dress code, allowing students to wear jeans on Fridays as long as they followed the rest of the rules." The amendment in the example improved the rules for a school that usually requires students to wear uniforms.

The second suffix we will learn today is -or. Say it with me, -or. When the suffix -or is added to a word, it makes a noun that performs an action. Let's look at the word. [Display the word visitor with the suffix underlined and point to visit.] The word visit is a verb that means to see or stay for a short time. [Point to the suffix -or.] When I add the suffix -or to visit, the word changes to a noun. A visitor is the name for a person that stays at a place for a purpose. For example, "Yesterday, a visitor came to our science class to teach us about the solar system, and we learned about the planets and their moons." In this example, visitor describes a person who was invited to a science class to talk about the solar system.

LESSON 3

Activity 1: Listening to Words with Suffixes

Materials: None

Activity Description: In this activity, the instructor will model how to identify suffixes *-ment* and *-or* in a spoken word. Also, the instructor will model how to use the *peel-off* strategy to break a word into parts and figure out its meaning. This demonstration will help the students become aware of suffixes so they can use the *peel-off* strategy in later activities on spelling and reading multimorphemic words.

Begin by telling students:

*Now I am going to model how to identify the suffixes -ment and -or in spoken words. Listen as I demonstrate what you will do. [Say to the students: *adornment* and then demonstrate a think-aloud about how you determine if this word ends with the suffix -ment or -or.]*

*Adornment. When I say the word *adornment*, I am listening to the end of the word for a suffix. [Say the word slowly, emphasizing the -ment suffix.] Adornment. I hear the suffix -ment at the end of the word. This means that the suffix on *adornment* is -ment.*

Next, model peeling off the suffix to break the word into parts.

*Because I identified a suffix in the word *adornment*, I can use the peel-off strategy to figure out the meaning of the word. If I remove the suffix -ment from *adornment*, I am left with *adorn* which is a word that means to decorate. When I add the suffix -ment, it becomes the word *adornment*, and this word has many meanings. Often the word is used as a noun that means a decoration that is added to make something more interesting or beautiful. An example of how I would use *adornment* in a sentence is: "At the school dance, Mia wore a beautiful necklace as an *adornment* to her elegant dress."*

*The second suffix that we are learning about today is -or. When I say the word *collector*, I am going to pay close attention to the final sounds in the word *collector*. [Say the word slowly, emphasizing the -or suffix.] I do not hear the suffix -ment at the end of the word. I hear -or at the end of the word. [Say the word slowly, emphasizing the -or suffix.] *Collector*. This tells me that the suffix for the word *collector* is -or.*



LESSON 3

Next, model peeling off the suffix to break the word into parts.

Now that I have identified the suffix -or on the word collector, I can use the peel-off strategy to determine the word's meaning. If I peel off the suffix -or from collector, I am left with the word collect. Collect is a verb that means to bring or gather things. When I add the suffix -or to the word collect, the word becomes the noun collector. A collector is a person who gathers things. An example of how to use collector in a sentence is: "My friend is a shell collector; whenever she is at a beach, she brings home many shells and stores them in a large jar."

Next, provide guided practice in identifying and peeling off suffixes with the words: reflector and improvement.

Now that I have modeled how to identify the suffixes -ment and -or and use the peel-off strategy, I want you to practice with me. I will say one word at a time. For each word, we will be listening for the suffix -ment or -or. If you hear the suffix, then we will use the peel-off strategy to break the word into parts.

If students are not able to complete the routine, then use the prompts below such as:

- *What suffixes are you listening for?*
- *Do you hear the suffix -ment or the -or suffix at the end of the word?*
- *How do you break the word into parts?*

If students are not successful with the prompting questions, then the instructor will need to provide additional modeling using the word announcement.

LESSON 3

Activity 2: Reading Words with Suffixes

Materials: Suffix cards, printed and cut out (see Activity Resources for suffix cards)

Activity Description: This activity is an application of the *peel-off* strategy to help students read multimorphemic words by breaking them into smaller parts.

Now we will practice looking for our suffixes in printed words so that we can peel off the suffixes to read the words. First, let's review identifying our suffixes in print.

Shuffle the stack of suffix cards so that students cannot anticipate which card you will show next. Show the cards to the students, one at a time. Ask the students to read the suffix on each card as soon as it is shown. If the students have difficulty reading the suffixes automatically, say the suffix, reshuffle the cards, and have students read the cards again until they are successful in reading the cards automatically.

*Now, let's look at this word. [Display the word *adjustment* but do not say it.] If I do not know how to read this word, I want to break it into parts that I can recognize. First, I will look for one of our suffixes: -ment or -or. [Have both suffixes displayed for students to reference during the lesson.] I know that suffixes are at the end of the word, and I see -ment at the end of this word. [Draw a scoop mark underneath the suffix and show that it matches the suffix -ment you already have displayed.] In this example, the suffix -ment changes the word to a noun or a verb. If I peel off the suffix -ment, we are left with the word: adjust. [Cover -ment with a sticky note or temporarily delete/erase it.] If I add the suffix -ment to the verb adjust, the word adjustment becomes a noun. [Show -ment at the end of the word adjust.] Adjustment means making a change for a reason. This change can be small or big. An example of how to use adjustment in a sentence is: "Moving to a new school in the middle of the year is a big adjustment to your normal routine." Adjustment is making a change or correction for new conditions.*

LESSON 3

Next, have students practice reading multimorphemic words by peeling off the suffixes.

*It's your turn to try finding the suffixes, peeling them off to break a word into parts, and then reading the word. If you already know the word that I'm about to show you, do not say it. We want to use this to practice our strategy so that when you come across long words you are not familiar with, you will know what to do. [Show the word *traitor* but do not say it.]*

Guide the students in practicing the strategy with these prompts:

- *Do you see one of our suffixes on this word? What is it?*
- *What does the suffix tell us about the word?*
- *After you peel off the suffix, do you recognize the letters?*
- *Do you recognize the word without the suffix on it?*
- *What are different ways to pronounce the word?*
- *Can you put the suffix together with the letters or the word to read the whole word?*
- *Using what you know about the word and the suffix, what do you think the whole word means?*

Repeat the above process with the words: *projector*, *detector*, and *employment*.

If the student is not able to complete the strategy, provide additional modeling using the word *governor*.

After practicing the strategy with each word, have students read the full list of words with fluency.

LESSON 3

Activity 3: Making Words with Suffixes

Materials: Word part cards printed and cut out, with one set per student; white board and marker for each student (see Activity Resources for word cards)

Activity Description: In this part of the lesson, students will use word cards and suffix cards to create new words. The word parts are color coded, with suffixes in **purple** and words in **green**. This activity will help the students understand that multiple words can be made from the morphemes.

We have been practicing breaking words apart by peeling off the suffixes to see the letters or the word by itself and then putting the parts back together again to read the whole word. Today, we are going to make our own words by putting the suffixes -ment and -or on the end of letters or words that you already know. [Show the cards.]

Before beginning, review the suffixes with the students.

- *Who remembers what suffixes are?*
- *Where do we find suffixes on a word?*
- *How does finding the suffixes help us with reading a long word?*
- *[Show the suffix -ment card.] Who remembers what this suffix is? What does it tell us about the word?*
- *[Show the suffix -or card.] Who remembers what this suffix is? What does it tell us about the word?*

Review the words and word parts to make sure students know what they mean: *agree, involve, debt, sculpt, and ail.*

Now I am going to let you make some words using the suffixes -ment and -or. [Show word cards one at a time.] Do you know what this word is? [If the students do not know, say the word and ask students to repeat it.] Do you know what the word means? [If the students do not know, define the word.]

LESSON 3

You are going to use these cards to make new words by combining them with our suffixes. You may make a word and then find that it is not a real word. That's okay. You are trying to make real words, but not every word you are trying to make will work. Some will be real words, and some may not be. You can use an online dictionary to check if your word is real.

[Review any procedures for using devices and accessing online dictionaries.] If a word is not a real word, you will just try again.

Model creating the multimorphemic word *excitement* with the word part *excite* and the suffix *-ment* by saying, *“The word excite is a verb that means to cause strong feelings of enjoyment. [Show students the word part cards.] When you add the suffix -ment to the word excitement, it becomes a noun that means a feeling of intense interest and enjoyment. Here’s an example of how to use excitement in a sentence, “As the final bell rang, signaling the start of summer vacation, a wave of excitement swept through the hallways as students rushed out of the school.”*

During this practice, students should make the following real words: *agreement, involvement, debtor, sculptor, and ailment.*

As students work, monitor, and ask guiding questions:

- *Can you use what you know about the word parts to define this word?*
- *Do you need to check the online dictionary to see if that is a real word?*
- *Can the word be combined with the other suffix; why or why not?*

If the student is not able to complete the strategy, return to modeling and create another word. If the student still has difficulty, ask the student to tell you some words that end in *-ment* or *-or*. Create new word cards so the student can create known words.

LESSON 3

Activity 4: Spelling Words with Suffixes

Materials: White board and marker for each student

Activity Description: In this activity, model using the *peel-off* strategy to break a spoken multimorphemic word into parts. Then, spell the parts to form the written word. This is intended to increase the student's concentration on parts of the word as well as increase their spelling accuracy. Start by reviewing the *peel-off* strategy.

Today we will be using the peel-off strategy to break a spoken word into parts so that we can spell the word. Who remembers what the peel-off strategy is? What are the steps I follow in using the peel-off strategy? What are the suffixes that we are learning to peel off? What does -ment tell us about the word? What does -or tell us about the word?

Model using the *peel-off* strategy with the word *movement*.

We have used the peel-off strategy to read words, but today we are going to use the strategy to spell words. It can be difficult to spell a long word sound by sound. To spell a word like movement, I need to break it into bigger parts than individual sounds to see what I recognize. Say the word movement with me: movement. I remember that I can listen for my suffixes in the word. I hear the suffix -ment at the end of the word movement. If I peel off the suffix -ment, I have the word move left. I know that move is a verb that means to change the position of your body. If I add the suffix -ment to the verb move, I make a new word, movement. A movement is a noun that has different meanings. One meaning is to change position. For example, "She made a certain movement and frightened the kitten away."

Have the students use this strategy to spell the words: *amazement*, *statement*, and *selector*.

LESSON 3

Guide the students in practicing the strategy.

- *Repeat the word.*
- *Do you hear a suffix at the end?*
- *Which one of our suffixes do you hear?*
- *When you peel off the suffix, what word is left?*
- *Do you recognize that word? If not pronounce the vowel as a short vowel. If that does not help, try pronouncing the vowel as a long vowel.*
- *Try spelling the word sound by sound.*
- *Now add back the suffix. Check that you have the right word by reading it.*

Provide the students with explicit praise and explicit error correction as needed. Examples of explicit praise:

- *I like how you are peeling off the suffix first and then spelling the word sound by sound.*
- *Great job, (say student's name), spelling the word correctly and then adding the suffix back to the end of the word.*

If students incorrectly peel off the suffix, provide specific error correction such as:

- *Let's try again. The -ment suffix is spelled with the letters m, e, n, and t. The -or suffix is spelled with the letters o and r.*
- *Let's try again together. Tell me the first sound you hear in [say the word].*
- *What letters can represent that sound? What is the next sound you hear in [say the word]? What letters represent that sound? [Continue until the word has been spelled.]*
- *You are right. That is one way to spell the sound you hear in [say the word]. But in this word, the sound is represented by different letters. Can you think of other letters that represent the sound? [If not known, provide them.]*

If students have difficulty with the steps of this activity, then provide additional modeling with the word *suitor*.

LESSON 3

If students have difficulty representing the sounds in a word, provide the student a white board and marker and follow these steps:

1. Say the word for the student.
2. Practice counting out the phonemes of the word. Draw lines on the white board or paper to represent each phoneme. Have the student write the letter or letters that correspond with each phoneme.
 - Example word: *sui*tor.
 - The instructor says to the student, *Let's sound out and spell the word on the white board. As you sound out the word, I am going to draw a line for each sound that you say. What are the sounds before the suffix -or in the word sui*tor?
 - Student says, /s/ /ui/ /t/ /or/.
 - Instructor writes four lines on the white board for each phoneme that the student says (e.g.,). *Now that we have mapped out the phonemes of the word sui*tor, you are going to write on the lines the letter or letters that represent each sound. [Sound out the word *sui*tor again and write the letter or letters that represent the sound on each line (i.e., s ui t or).]
3. Once the student has written the letters, ask them to add the appropriate suffix onto the end of the word.
4. If the student spells the word correctly, return to the spelling activity. If incorrect, repeat steps 1-3.

LESSON 3

Activity 5: Assessment of Reading and Spelling Multimorphemic Words

Materials: (see Activity Resources)

- spelling multimorphemic words assessment
- instructor and student copies of the reading multimorphemic words assessment
- instructor and student copies of the reading multimorphemic words in connected text assessment
- lined notebook paper and a pencil for each student

Activity Directions: After completing all instructional activities, assess whether the students have met the daily objectives. There are three parts to the assessment:

- Part 1: Spelling Multimorphemic Words
 - The student will be given a spelling task using 10 multimorphemic words: *director*, *vendor*, *treatment*, *editor*, *payment*, *investment*, *placement*, *arrangement*, *sailor*, and *actor*.
 - The spelling test is a group administered assessment and untimed. The criterion for the spelling test is to spell 7 out of the 10 words correctly. Students must spell both the word and suffix correctly to earn a point.
-
- Part 2: Reading Multimorphemic Words in Isolation
 - After the spelling test, students will be asked to read the same list of words that was used for the spelling test. This is individually administered. The criterion for this assessment is to read 8 out of the 10 words correctly.
-
- Part 3: Reading Multimorphemic Words in Connected Text
 - The students will read 6 of the assessment words in connected text. This is individually administered. The criterion is to complete the passage and read 5 of the 6 suffixed words correctly.

ACTIVITY RESOURCES

ACTIVITY 2- SUFFIX CARDS

Directions: The suffix cards below are created to use as flashcards with students. The instructor may print and cut out individual cards to create a deck of cards containing multiple copies of each suffix. Before completing the activity with students, shuffle the suffix cards so that students cannot anticipate the suffix you will show next.

ment	ment	ment		
ment	ment			
or	or	or	or	or

ACTIVITY RESOURCES

ACTIVITY 3- WORD PART CARDS

Directions: The word part cards are created to use with students. The cards are color coded: words are **green** and suffixes are **purple**. Before the lesson, the instructor will print and cut out the cards, making one set for each student. The words will be placed together in a pile separate from the suffixes. Students also should be given a white board and marker to record the words they make by combining the words and suffixes.

ity	ful
popular	bliss
senior	thought
human	respect

ACTIVITY RESOURCES

SPELLING MULTIMORPHEMIC WORDS

ASSESSMENT- INSTRUCTOR COPY

Activity Description: This spelling test is group administered. Before beginning, distribute a lined sheet of paper to each student. Prompt students to number their paper from 1 to 10 because there will be 10 words on the test.

General Directions: *You are going to spell words that have the suffixes we have been learning. I will say the word and use it in a sentence. Then, you will spell the word on your paper. Do you have any questions?*

Complete the following steps for each word:

- Step 1: Instructor says the word.
- Step 2: Instructor prompts all students to repeat the word chorally to ensure that students heard the word correctly.
- Step 3: Instructor reads the sentence to provide a context for the word.
- Step 4: Instructor repeats the word and prompts students to write the word on their papers.

Scoring Directions: Students are awarded 1 point for each word spelled correctly. Both the word and suffix must be correct. The criterion for this assessment is to spell 7 out of the 10 words correctly.

1. payment: The baker only accepted cash as payment for the birthday cake. Payment.	payment
2. treatment: After being lost in the desert, the dog was given water and supplements as a treatment for dehydration. Treatment.	treatment
3. actor: In the television series, the main actor appeared in every episode. Actor.	actor
4. director: The director on the movie set gave many instructions to the stunt doubles. Director.	director
5. arrangement: After routinely forgetting to do his homework, Tim made an arrangement with his instructor to complete his homework in class before school started each day. Arrangement.	arrangement
6. sailor: The skilled sailor navigated the ship around the world. Sailor.	sailor
7. investment: Training to make an Olympic team requires a personal investment of time and energy. Investment.	investment
8. vendor: The vendor sold fresh flowers and vegetables at the Saturday farmer's market. Vendor.	vendor
9. placement: There are many dogs in the shelter that are awaiting placement in loving foster homes. Placement.	placement
10. editor: The editor double-checked all the facts and dates in the magazine article before it was published. Editor.	editor

ACTIVITY RESOURCES

READING MULTIMORPHEMIC WORDS IN ISOLATION ASSESSMENT- INSTRUCTOR COPY

Administer this assessment to one student at a time in a distraction-free environment. This is not timed. Print one copy of the student version and one copy of the instructor version. Place the student copy in front of the student.

General Directions: *You are going to read a list of long words that have the suffixes we have been learning. Please read out loud. Start with the word at the top of the page and continue reading down the list. Stop when you have read the last word. Ready? Begin.*

Scoring Directions: Students are awarded 1 point for each word read correctly. The criterion for this assessment is to read 8 out of the 10 words correctly.

1. editor	6. payment
2. sailor	7. actor
3. arrangement	8. placement
4. investment	9. treatment
5. vendor	10. director

ACTIVITY RESOURCES
READING MULTIMORPHEMIC WORDS IN
ISOLATION ASSESSMENT-STUDENT COPY

Directions: Please read each word out loud.

1. editor	6. payment
2. sailor	7. actor
3. arrangement	8. placement
4. investment	9. treatment
5. vendor	10. director

ACTIVITY RESOURCES

READING MULTIMORPHEMIC WORDS IN CONNECTED TEXT ASSESSMENT-

INSTRUCTOR COPY

Administer this assessment to one student at a time in a distraction-free environment. This is not timed. Print one copy of the student version and one copy of the instructor version. Place the student copy in front of the student.

General Directions: *This passage has words with the suffixes we have been learning. Please read this passage out loud, starting with the title and continuing until you have finished the passage. If you get stuck, I will help you with the word so you can keep reading. Ready? Begin.*

Scoring Directions: The criterion is to complete the passage and read 5 of the 6 assessment words correctly.

Lost at Sea

As James looks at the rushing waves crashing into the shore, he remembers years ago, when he had been lost at sea.

“Will you join me?” asks his friend, hoping to bring him on yet another voyage.

James thinks about the salty taste of the water, and he remembers the **arrangement** of boxes and bags that had floated in the water around him. He remembers how tired he had been, clinging to the life jacket left behind from the crash of his ship.

James looks at his friend. “You know how it ended last time. I can’t go through that again.”

“Cut!” yells the movie **director**, Amanda. “That was good, but I need more emotion from you, James.”

James is an **actor** on the set of a new movie that is filming. Everyone told him how lucky he is to star as Peter Forest, a **sailor**, whose mission is to sail the sea in the longest journey yet.

“I need more emotional **investment** from you, James,” says Amanda. “Think about how hard it would be to remember such a sad event. Peter lost everything in that crash. Give it all you’ve got!”

As the camera crew resets, James looks back at the waves.

“Will you join me?” his friend asks. He tries to think, not just about the crash, but about all that had been lost in the crash.

“You know how it ended last time,” James answers. This time, he doesn’t think about the salty water or the boxes and bags or even about how tired he was. This time, he thinks about what he has to lose and begins to cry.

“Perfect!” Amanda whispers to herself as she moves the camera **placement** to better see the tear under his eye.

“I can’t go through that again.”

ACTIVITY RESOURCES

READING MULTIMORPHEMIC WORDS IN CONNECTED TEXT ASSESSMENT- STUDENT COPY

Directions: Please read the text out loud.

Lost at Sea

As James looks at the rushing waves crashing into the shore, he remembers years ago, when he had been lost at sea.

“Will you join me?” asks his friend, hoping to bring him on yet another voyage.

James thinks about the salty taste of the water, and he remembers the arrangement of boxes and bags that had floated in the water around him. He remembers how tired he had been, clinging to the life jacket left behind from the crash of his ship.

James looks at his friend. “You know how it ended last time. I can’t go through that again.”

“Cut!” yells the movie director, Amanda. “That was good, but I need more emotion from you, James.”

James is an actor on the set of a new movie that is filming. Everyone told him how lucky he is to star as Peter Forest, a sailor, whose mission is to sail the sea in the longest journey yet.

“I need more emotional investment from you, James,” says Amanda. “Think about how hard it would be to remember such a sad event. Peter lost everything in that crash. Give it all you’ve got!”

As the camera crew resets, James looks back at the waves.

“Will you join me?” his friend asks. He tries to think, not just about the crash, but about all that had been lost in the crash.

“You know how it ended last time,” James answers. This time, he doesn’t think about the salty water or the boxes and bags or even about how tired he was. This time, he thinks about what he has to lose and begins to cry.

“Perfect!” Amanda whispers to herself as she moves the camera placement to better see the tear under his eye.

“I can’t go through that again.”

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