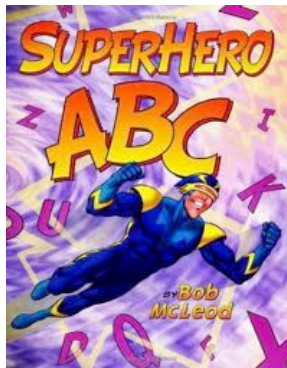


Identify Beginning & Ending Sounds

Superhero ABC

Written and Illustrated by Bob McLeod



Description:

Twenty-six superheroes are featured in this book, one for each letter of the alphabet. Each superhero's name is part of an alliteration using its beginning letter. From "Astro-Man is always alert for an alien attack." to "The Zinger zanily zigzags through the zero zone."

Connections:

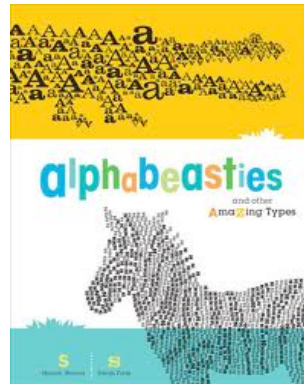
Written and illustrated by a veteran comic book author, this book is sure to be a favorite among many students in the classroom. In fact, it might be wise to have multiple copies to share.

Alliteration can be a fun way to play with words. Try putting a small group of children in a line. Assign each a word from a tongue twister. Challenge the children to recite the alliteration quickly in order. How fast can you go?

Identify Beginning & Ending Sounds

Alphabeasties

Written and Illustrated by Sharon Werner and Sarah Forss



Description:

If you like fonts...this book is for you. Instead of crayons or markers, letters become the drawing tool.

Connections:

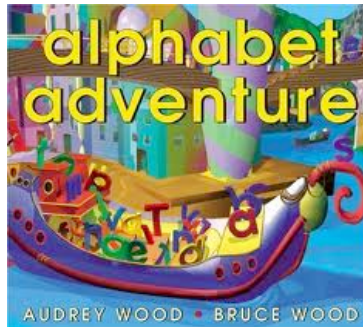
Beginning sounds play a major role in this book. Each featured animal, plus smaller illustrations on the page, are created with letters. A man's beard is made from b's, grapes are made from g's and a pirate eye patch is made from the letter p. A wide variety of fonts are used which help to reinforce the idea that letters can look slightly different but remain the same.

One way to turn the focus on ending sounds would be to pass out outlines of objects. Children could fill in the objects with the last letter in the word. For example, fill in an outline of a pencil with l's, a star with r's and use t's to fill an outline of a cat. Combine all the different pages into an "Ending Sounds" book to add to the bookshelf for children to read.

Identify Beginning & Ending Sounds

Alphabet Adventure

Written and Illustrated by Audrey and Bruce Wood



Description:

The letters in Charley's alphabet need to get to school. Along the way, the dot in letter "i" decides to hide. Can the other letters help?

Connections:

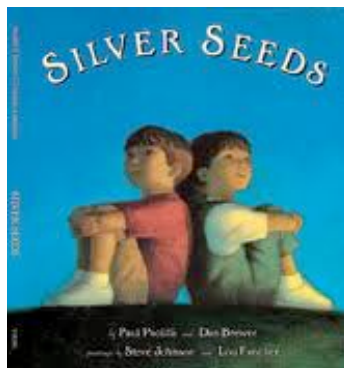
Matching letters to objects is an important step in learning beginning sounds. After reading the book, go back to the two-page spread where each letter of the alphabet is standing next to an object. Ask the children to tell you what they notice. Can they name additional items that could stand beside each letter?

To follow-up later it might be fun to explain initials as the two or three beginning letters that belong to you. Ask the children to figure out what their initials are. For even more fun, write each child's initials on a white paper ahead of time with a white crayon. (Press hard and make the lines a bit thick.) After the children tell you what their initials are, send them to a table with their paper. When everyone is ready, have them watercolor the entire surface of the paper. Wow! Their initials, or beginning sounds in their names will magically appear.

Identify Beginning & Ending Sounds

Silver Seeds

Written by Paul Paolilli & Dan Brewer...Illustrated by Steve Johnson & Lou Fancher



Description:

If classical music could be illustrated and scribed, it would be this book. Silver Seeds is a collection of lovely acrostic nature poems.

Connections:

Acrostic poems are designed to focus on the beginning letter of a word. The poems in the book are simple but elegant descriptions of the beautiful illustrations. Here is the poem for tree:

Tiny hands
Reaching up from the
Earth, tickling an
Enormous
Sky.

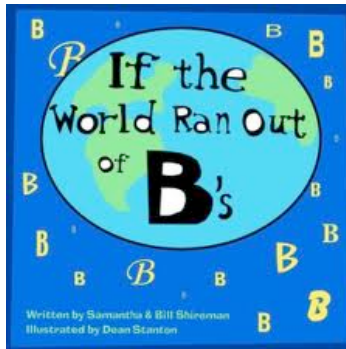
After reading the book it might be fun to write some acrostic poems as a class. Encourage the children to decide on a key word that has meaning to everyone. Brainstorm a list of words corresponding to the beginning letters. Students could refer to a picture dictionary for ideas. Share with the children that it's fun to play with words.

Read
Everyday
And
Do not stop.

Identify Beginning & Ending Sounds

If the World Ran Out of B's

Written by Samantha & Bill Shireman...Illustrated by Dean Stanton



Description:

This is a story of the consequences of losing the beginning letter “b.” Instead of getting presents in boxes, children would get “oxes.” We’d have “icycles” instead of bicycles and “ugs” instead of bugs.

Connections:

If the World Ran Out of B's is a clever word play book. For those children who enjoy words, this story will be a treat. From an educator perspective, the book focuses on the phonemic awareness skill of sound substitution. Read a word to your students. Ask them to say the word without the beginning sound. For example: apple with the /a/, pencil without the /p/ or stove without the /s/. Another way to play the game is to give students the partial word and ask them to add the beginning sound. Example: Add an /l/ to unch, /t/ to oy and /d/ to rink. Games like these can be useful when you need to fill an extra minute while waiting in line, as well as being fun and good practice.