

All About Things People Do



by Melanie and Chris Rice
 genre: social studies nonfiction
 word count: 1,284

Level K

Summary People do all kinds of work indoors and outside, in cities, in factories, on farms, on and under the sea, and in the sky. Meet the people who make goods and provide services all over, and even out of, this world.

Background Information

Here is some additional information about jobs and terms that may not be familiar to children.

- A *ricksha walla* is someone who pedals or pulls a two-wheeled vehicle, usually for one passenger. Rickshas originated in Japan.
- A *gondolier* is someone who propels a gondola. A *gondola* is a long, narrow, flat-bottom boat with a high prow and stern and is used on the canals of Venice, Italy.
- *Snooker* is a variation of pool played with 15 red balls and 6 balls of different colors.
- A *midwife* is someone who assists at childbirth.

For more information, see The Bureau of Labor Statistics' Career Information web site at www.bls.gov/k12/html/edu_over.htm.

Supportive Text Features

Many of the spot illustrations in the book have labels or captions that support the text. Single-topic spreads provide amounts of information that readers can process easily.

Praise children for specific use of "Behaviors to Notice and Support" on page 42 of the *Guided Reading Teacher's Guide*.

Challenging Text Features

Before children read, discuss the more current American terms for the more dated or British-American terms: pp. 10–11, *stewardess* (flight attendant); p. 20, *jumper* (sweater); p. 22, *salespersons* (salespeople); p. 31, *athletics* (track and field); p. 31, *snooker* (pool); p. 35, *coastguardsmen* (the coastguard); p. 36, *operating theater* (operating room); p. 37, *canteen* (cafeteria); p. 37, *x-ray radiographer* (x-ray technician); p. 42, *postman* (postal worker).

When reading about assembling a car on pages 12–13, be sure children read the steps in order.

TEACHING OPTIONS

Comprehension Strategy

Reading for Information

We read nonfiction to learn new things and to find answers to questions. Have children read to find the answers to questions such as:

- What does an air traffic controller do?
- When are the windshields attached to the body of a car?
- How is cotton picked?
- Where does a wardrobe mistress work?
- Other than school, where else can you find teachers?

Phonics and Word-Solving Strategies

Reading Words With Suffixes

Explain that, as a teacher, your work is to teach. The suffix *-er* means “one who.” Other suffixes that also mean “one who” are *-or*, *-ist*, and *-ian*. Help children find and read words with these suffixes.

- Page 26: What do you call someone who works with music? What other professionals end in *-ian*?
- Page 29: What do you call someone who acts on stage?
- Page 34: What do you call a person who puts out fires? What other professionals end in *-er*?
- Page 38: What do you call someone whose work is science?

Reading Multisyllabic Words

Review that a syllable is a word part that has one vowel sound and that the letter *y* is sometimes a vowel.

- Read the following sentence on page 8, stressing each syllable of the multisyllabic words as you read: *People are busy everywhere, in towns and cities, in the countryside and at sea, even under the ground.*
- Ask children to identify the words with one, two, and three syllables.
- Then have children find other two- and three-syllable words in the book.
- Challenge children to find four-syllable words in the book.

Oral Language/Vocabulary

- Ask children to tell what kind of work they would like to do when they grow up. Have them share what they like about their chosen professions.
- Engaging with books means generating our own questions about what we read. Ask children to share questions that came to mind as they read *All About Things People Do*. Note their questions for “Extending Meaning” below.

Extending Meaning Through Reading and Writing

- Have children use classroom and school library resources to answer a question they thought of while reading *All About Things People Do*. (**Expository**)
- Ask children to write captions for magazine pictures of people working at different jobs and professions. They can also write captions for personal photographs or drawings of themselves playing a sport or other activity they enjoy. (**Descriptive**)

Fluency Practice

Pair children who have similar interests. Have children select a topic and practice reading the introductory text aloud to each other. Ask the more fluent reader to model fluent reading before the other child reads.