



My Dad Is a Firefighter

OBJECTIVE: Read to learn from a firefighter's son what his father does at work.

STANDARDS: Social Studies (NCSS): Individuals, groups, and institutions; Science: Personal Health

"When Alex grows up, he wants to be a firefighter too!"

BEFORE READING

Specific Word Instruction

Use the word "firefighter" to teach compound words and suffixes.

Point to the word *firefighter* on the cover and ask, "What two smaller words do you see?" (*fire, fighter*) Explain that a **compound** word is a word made by joining two words together. Next, point out that *fighter* is made from the action word *fight*. The suffix *-er* means "someone who." For example, a teacher is someone who teaches, and a painter is someone who paints. Then ask, "What is a fighter?" (*someone who fights*) "What is a firefighter?" (*someone who fights fire*)

DURING READING

Understand Text Features

Help children review the purpose of speech bubbles.

At the bottom of page 3, ask, "What is different about the red words?" Explain that this is a called a **speech bubble**. It shows the words that someone says. Then ask, "Who is saying the words? How do you know?" (*The tip of the bubble is pointing to him.*) Invite children to make up a reply bubble for Alex's dad, for example, "Thanks, son!"

AFTER READING

Evaluate

Invite children to share their views on firefighting.

Ask, "Would you like doing Alex's father's job? Why or why not?" Encourage children to use specific reasons. For instance, some children might like the excitement of hurrying to a fire, while others might like the chance of helping people. Remind children they must wait until they are grown up if they want to try firefighting. After all, it takes a lot of training.

READ-ALoud BACKGROUND

Meet Alex & Dad

- Alex and his dad have a lot in common. When Alex grows up, he wants to be a firefighter too! He and his dad also have the same first name.
- Alex is in first grade. His sister, Stephanie, is in fifth grade. Sometimes, they visit their dad at work. They have helped wash the fire truck. They even rode in the truck in a parade.
- Alex says he's proud of his dad. He thinks firefighters are cool because they help save people. Stephanie says her dad saves more than people—he saves their pets too.

Gear Up, Firefighters!

- The **turnout gear** Alex's dad wears is made from special cloth. It protects firefighters' bodies because it doesn't catch fire easily. Sturdy **boots** help protect their feet.
- **Helmets** and **hoods** protect firefighters' eyes, ears, and necks. **Masks** help keep them from breathing too much smoke.

Alex's Dad On the Job

- When Alex's dad is at work, he eats and sleeps at the **firehouse**. The firefighters take turns living there, so someone is always ready if there's a fire.
- The firehouse has bedrooms, bathrooms, and a kitchen, just like a regular house. It also has a big garage for the fire trucks! Of course, it also has a garage for the fire trucks!

Alex's Safety Tips

- If there's a fire, get out and stay out! Get down and crawl if there's smoke. If it's hot, keep it closed. Find another way out.
- Never hide from firefighters. People like Alex's dad are there to help you! Call out for help so they can find you.