Decodable Practice Reader

Teller, Tailor, Seller, Sailor

Written by K. E. Theroux

Suffixes -er, -or, -ess, -ist

teacher  artist  actress  editors

conductors  driver  writer  inventor

firefighter  chemist

High-Frequency Words

are  people  do

a  what  said

you  the  of

two  wants  watched

their  should  they

to  would  your
“Now we’ll discuss jobs,” Miss Lim told her class on Friday morning after math. “We know that jobs are things that people do for a living, so first tell me what my job is.”

Lola spoke quickly, “You’re a teacher, Miss Lim.”

“And what do teachers do?” asked Miss Lim.

“Teachers help us learn things,” Jeb finally blurted out.

“Now think about more jobs that people do when they grow up,” Miss Lim said, handing out paper.

“After picking one job, you’ll write about that job and tell why you picked it.” Little by little the room grew silent as the class started making lists of jobs.
Rose can see herself in two jobs. First, she is an artist, and she paints big red flowers and yellow suns on large white canvases. People admire her bright paintings.

Then she is an actress, and she speaks her lines in plays on stage without making a single mistake! People clap and whistle loudly for her.

Lola knows she wants a job in which she helps people.

Her uncle is a doctor, and her mom is a dentist. Lola has watched them both at work. Doctors help sick or hurt people, while dentists help people care for their teeth. Both are fine jobs, and both jobs help people. Which job should she pick?
Zan likes reading stories. Editors fix mistakes in stories before they get printed, so an editor will read lots of stories.

Zan likes listening to music. Conductors lead bands when they play, so a conductor will listen to lots of music. Which job would be better for him?

First, Jeb sees himself as a racecar driver. He sees a sleek car speeding on a racetrack, and he holds the wheel tightly as he wins the race!

Then Jeb sees himself as a teacher. He sees happy kids sitting in a classroom, and he helps them learn things—just like Miss Lim!
“Now, class,” said Miss Lim. “Let’s start writing. Has everybody picked a job?”

“Actress! Writer! Dentist! Inventor! Firefighter! Sailor! Conductor! Seller! Chemist! TEACHER!”

Miss Lim smiled and held up her hands. “My, you’re eager to write about your jobs! Now let’s see that in your writing.”