



PreKorner™ Early Literacy Resources - Child Literature Activity Series

Teaching Vocabulary Through Children's Historical Fiction



An important element of early literacy and reading readiness is vocabulary, shown to help with comprehension and fluency. *Mailing May*[†] is a piece of child historical fiction literature, based on a true story, that will help your child learn

new words related to a past era. Read the book together, looking carefully at the old photos, the vintage stove, oil lamps, and store shelves. Explain that these items were in use before electricity was installed in houses. Talk about how things would be different—people did not have cars, planes, or buses to travel on, they would need big quilts to keep them warm at night because the stove was not in the bedroom, and wages were very different in 1914 than they are now. Talk about visiting relatives, something that children have always loved to do and always will. Some of the wonderful words that you will be introducing to her are listed below. Try to use these words in conversation several times and encourage him to do the same.



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[Edition 01 - 1 Early Childhood Literacy: Teaching Children to Read](#)

[Edition 01 - 2 Early Childhood Literacy: Literacy and Language Development](#)

New Vocabulary:

Beeline – went straight there without any delays

Slogged – walked heavily, as in slushy conditions

Commenced – started

Pa's little traveling bag, valise – a suitcase

Flabbergasted – very confused; not sure what is happening

Permissible – it is allowed

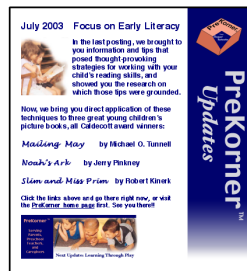
Poultry – chicken, turkey, geese, duck, etc.

Boar hog – a male pig

A trip to the local post office will never be the same after reading this adventuresome book with your child!

Check out the other early literacy entries in the [Child Literature Activity Series](#)

Go to the [Early Literacy overview page](#)



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† **Mailing May** is authored by Michael O. Tunnell, and illustrated by Ted Rand (Tambourine Books/Greenwillow Books). The 1998 ALA Notable Children's Picture Book winner!