



My Town at Work

by Gare Thompson

Overview

This book tells how people interact with their community. It describes community services, public places, and local government.

Literacy Focus

High Frequency Words

buildings, city, parks, people, roads, safe, school, stores, students, town, workers

Content Words

senior citizen, campaign, town council, volunteer, shifts, fine, route, mayor, licenses, services, taxes, election

Word Attack and Vocabulary Skills

- Using context to understand the meaning of content words

- Decoding compound words

- Identifying action words

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- Identifying the main ideas and supporting details
- Summarizing key information
- Making links to own experiences

Book Parts and Text Features

- Contents page and glossary
- Introduction
- Chapters and subheads

- Photographs

Writing/Speaking and Listening

- Discussing the services a town provides
- Discussing similarities and differences between your community and the town in the book
- Writing a letter to a town worker

Observe/Assess

See *Multiple-Choice Test* in the Assessment Handbook, page 67.

Social Studies Focus

Content and Thinking Skills

- Identifying public places in a town
- Describing different services towns provide
- Understanding the roles people have in running a town

- Understanding the responsibilities of citizens living in a town

Background Information

All communities—from small towns to large cities—provide a wide range of public places and services to meet the needs of its citizens. Citizens pay for community services through taxes, fines, and licensing fees.

Correlation to National Standards

- Individuals, Groups, and Institutions
- Power, Authority, and Governance
- Civic Ideals and Practice

See *Standards Chart* on page 142.

Literacy Focus

Set the Scene

Ask children to think about their town. Ask:

What kind of public places does your town have?

What services does your town provide?

Read and Discuss

Cover, Title Page, and Contents Page

Have children look at the cover and title page. Ask:

Why is this book called My Town at Work?

Who might be telling the story?

Read the contents page and discuss what places in the town the book might tell about.

Pages 3–9

Read and discuss what the places are used for. Ask:

Why are they called public places?

Encourage children to think about places where anyone can go. Ask:

Who is responsible for these places?

Encourage children to compare the places in the book with those in their own town.

Pages 10–15

Encourage children to tell what they know about the jobs of the people in this chapter. Discuss the fact that these people are paid. Distinguish between paid and volunteer work. Ask:

What types of services are these workers providing?

Pages 16–24

Discuss why people want sidewalks, bike paths, and buses. Ask:

Who takes care of these things?

Who pays for these things?

Ask children to think about the town in the book as a whole and about how all the parts and people fit together. Then have children compare their own experiences with information from the book.

Respond

- Write *road/work* on the board. Have volunteers read each word and then read the two words together to make a compound word. Continue with other compound words.

○ weekend	○ everyone
○ potholes	○ firefighters
○ townspeople	○ skateboard
○ playground	○ sometimes

- Have children reread pages 12–13 and focus on the actions of the firefighters. Write the words for those actions on the board. Then invite children to think of some action words that tell what police officers do.

BLM Key Words

Activity Master, page 52

Have children read the glossary together. Then have them write definitions for some of these words on the Activity Master.

BLM Meeting Individual Needs

For specific teaching strategies for meeting individual needs, see pages 134–139.

Social Studies Focus

Social Studies Concept

Towns are made up of people and places. People have responsibilities they must fill to keep the town running.

Activities

Further Research

Ask children to find out about some people who do important jobs in their town. Have children write to the people and

ask them about their jobs. Publish the information on a chart.

Worker Posters

Ask children to select one of the town workers they read about. Have them reread the pages and find all the facts about that person. Then have them make a poster with the facts and draw a picture.

Interview

Invite a firefighter, police officer, doctor, or town hall worker to come to class and tell children about his or her job. Encourage children to ask questions.

BLM Mapping My Town

Activity Master, page 53

Have children create a town map, using the grid and labels on the Activity Master.

Name _____

My Town at Work

Write a sentence for each word to tell what it means.

1. senior citizen

2. volunteer

3. campaign

4. town council

5. license

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Name _____

My Town at Work

Make a town map. Cut out the labels and paste them on the town plan. Draw other places that are part of your town.



Library

School

Park

Hospital

Police Station

Town Hall

Fire Department

Senior Center

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