

RISE Arkansas

An informational newsletter exploring the Science of Reading in Arkansas

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Issue 27

We love teachers!

One of our favorite things to appreciate all year long, but especially in May, are the amazing teachers in Arkansas. Teacher Appreciation Month is celebrated every year in May, and the origins of this celebration can be traced back to Mattie Whyte Woodridge (1909-1999), an African-American teacher from Arkansas. Woodridge worked hard to ensure educators were recognized for their dedication and hard work. She wrote many letters to important leaders around the country and eventually one of those letters happened to make its way to First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. Ms. Roosevelt joined forces with Ms. Woodridge



and urged the 81st U.S. Congress to consider setting aside one day per year to acknowledge and honor the work of teachers.

For one year only, Congress declared March 7, 1980, as National Teacher Day. For several years after that, the National Education Association, and its

affiliates observed National Teacher Day on the first Tuesday of March.

Finally, Teacher Appreciation Week was created in 1985, when the National PTA assigned a full week in May to the annual holiday. Teacher Appreciation Day falls on the Tuesday of this week-long event and is observed by every state and almost every school in the nation.



IN THIS EDITION

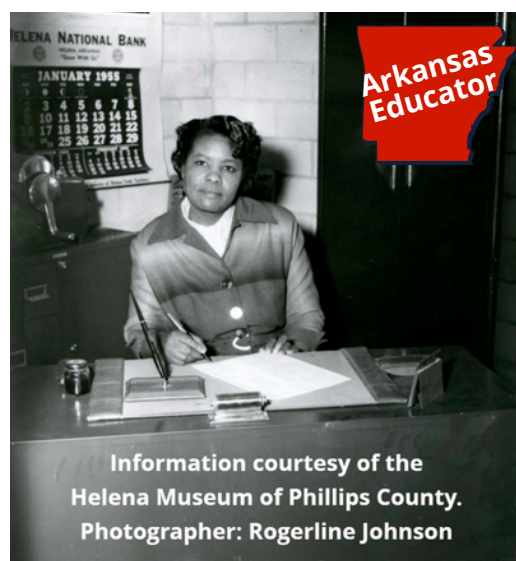
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Mattie Whyte Woodridge worked as an educator in the Arkansas Delta and served as principal of North End Elementary School in Helena in the 1950s.



Information courtesy of the
Helena Museum of Phillips County.
Photographer: Rogerline Johnson

Appreciating Verbs

A verb is a word that describes actions (what things do) and states of being (how things are). There are many different kinds of verbs. In fact, Dictionary.Com lists eleven different kinds, but this month, we are going to explore only two, **transitive and intransitive**. When exploring the word *appreciate* in the [Online Etymology Dictionary](#), readers might notice the word, "intransitive." The word *appreciate* is a verb that can be transitive or intransitive. Let's take a moment to explore exactly what that means.

Transitive Verbs

A transitive verb is a verb that is accompanied by a direct object in a sentence. The direct object is the noun, pronoun, or noun phrase that is having something done to it by the subject of the sentence. Put more simply, transitive verbs need an object to complete their meaning. The following sentences all contain examples of transitive verbs. As you read each example below, try and decide which words are verbs and which ones are direct objects.

- We **liked** the movie.
- He **told** me the way to get there.
- She really **hates** lettuce.

Intransitive verbs

The opposite of a transitive verb is an intransitive verb. An intransitive verb is not followed by a direct object. Each sentence below uses intransitive verbs. Look carefully and you will notice that none of these sentences contain direct objects.

- Birds **fly**.
- The children **slept** while the adults worked.
- The terrified monkeys **hid** in the trees after they saw the gigantic hungry snake.

When thinking about the word **appreciates**, below you will find examples of it used as a transitive verb and an intransitive verb.

- Transitive - She **appreciates** every teacher that has helped her child.
- Intransitive - The investment **appreciates** over time.

We appreciate you joining this small lesson in transitive and intransitive verbs!



appreciate (v.)

1650s, "to esteem or value highly," from Late Latin *appretiatus*, past participle of *appretiare* "to set a price to," from *ad* "to" (see *ad-*) + *pretium* "price" (see *price* (n.)). The meaning "to rise in value" (**intransitive**) is by 1787; the sense of "be fully conscious of" is by 1833. "Appreciate is to set a just value on; it implies the use of wise judgment or delicate perception" [Century Dictionary]. Related: *Appreciated*; *appreciating*.

How many verbs can you list that tell the actions of a teacher? We have listed a few to get you started.



teach
guide
council
coach

Multisyllabic words

Reading is a code-based system, and readers are most successful when they are taught the code. Over the last few months, the RISE Newsletter has explored syllable types. Over the next few months, the focus will be **multisyllabic words** or words with more than one syllable. We will offer tips and strategies to help your budding readers tackle these more challenging words!

As students progress through the grades, parents will notice a big difference in the words students are required to read. As a parent, it's essential to know how to help your child identify and tackle a word with more than one syllable. Over the last few months, we have discussed ways to decode multisyllabic words. We will continue this topic this month with the VCV pattern.

VCV Pattern

If a word has more than one vowel and the vowels are not beside each other, you know it is a multisyllabic word. Now, let's follow the steps we used in the last few months to figure out how to read the word.

- Find the vowels.
- Identify how many

m u s i c

consonants are between the vowels. The word music has one consonant between the vowels, so it has a V/CV pattern.

- The most common way to divide a V/CV pattern is before the consonant, so let's divide this word into two parts between the vowel u and the consonant s.

- Readers would then read the first syllable as an open syllable since it ends with a vowel, meaning it would make the long vowel sound.

m u | s i c

Then, readers would read the second syllable as a closed syllable, and the vowel would make the short vowel sound.

- When read together, these syllables will combine and be music to any reader's ears since they have decoded the word correctly!

Try to decode a few V/CV patterned words with your student to practice this new skill!

b e l o w

h u m a n

Take note!

One of the greatest gifts you can give to a teacher is a note of appreciation. The kind words and heartfelt gratitude in a handwritten note can lift a teacher's spirit more than anything.

A note of appreciation!



This month, make sure to print Page 4 of the RISE Newsletter. Cut out each section and have your child use it to write a special note of appreciation to their teacher. Don't stop at just one! Write a note on multiple days to one teacher or give one to many different teachers! Each sweet note will bring great joy and happiness to every teacher.

A note of appreciation!



THE
Love
OF A
GOOD
TEACHER
CAN NEVER
BE
ERASED!

**Thank you for
helping me
grow.**

