

MAY SAVES THE DAY

Word Activities

1. May runs Word Saver, Inc., which is a business that helps people by changing words.

INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITY: If you were to start a business, what kind of business would you like to run? Would you sell something or offer a service? Write a paragraph about your business.

GROUP ACTIVITY: With a group of 2-5 students, come up with a business idea and name. Then create an advertisement for your business. This could be a TV commercial, a poster, or any type of advertisement of your choice.

2. May is always changing words by adding a letter or two. Pretend you are May. What letter(s) could you add to change one word into a new word?

a) Try adding letters to change **CAT**, **POT**, or **BIT** into a different word.

(Possible answers: CAT could become CART, CAST, SCAT, SCATTER, CATASTROPHE; POT could become POST, POTATO, POTTY, PORT, PLOT, PILOT, SPOT, POSTAGE; BIT could become BITE, BRIGHT, BAIT, BUILT, BITTER)

b) Now pick a word of your own. What letters would you add to change your word into a different word?

3. Stuart uses his lasso skills to help May. Pretend you are Stuart. What letter(s) could you take away to change one word into a new word?

a) Try taking away letters to change **ALPHABET** or **BOOKSHELF** into a different word.

(Possible answers: ALPHABET could become BET, PET, APE, HAT; BOOKSHELF could become BOOK, SHELF, BOO, BOOS, OK, SHE, ELF)

b) Now pick any word of your own (it helps if it is a long word). What letters could you take away to change your word into a different one?

4. Think about your own first name.

a) What word(s) could you make by adding letters or taking letters away from your first name?

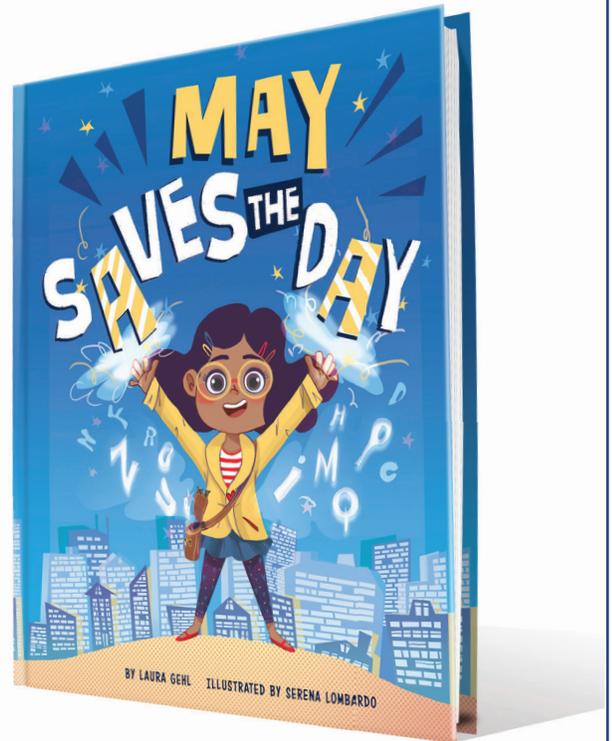
b) What is the smallest number of letters you can add and/or take away to make a new word out of your first name?

c) Try a and b again using your last name instead of your first name.

5. Oh no! May dropped her bag of letters and T, A, R, S, P, C, and E fell out!

What words could you make with the dropped letters?

(Possible answers: CAT, CART, CAST, PET, PEST, REST, TAR, STAR, SCAR, RAT)



ABOUT THE BOOK

From her trendy suit to her messenger bag, May is the picture of a successful businesswoman. After all, she is founder and sole proprietor of Word Saver, Inc. Carrying her trusty bag of letters, May saves the day again and again, turning angry BEES into playful BEETS and a rampaging BEAR into a silly BEARD. Stu begs to be her sidekick, but May insists that a businesswoman does not need a sidekick. However, May quickly realizes that teamwork may be the word of the day when a tornado threatens the town. Author Laura Gehl brings word play to a new level in this adventurous and humorous picture book, featuring spirited art by Serena Lombardo.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Laura Gehl is the award-winning author of numerous picture books, including *One Big Pair of Underwear* (Charlotte Zolotow Highly Commended Title, International Literacy Association Honor Book, Booklist Books for Youth Editors' Choice); the *Peep and Egg* series (Parents' Choice Recommendation, Amazon Editors' Pick, Children's Choice Book

Award Finalist); and *I Got a Chicken for my Birthday* (Kirkus Best Picture Books selection). Laura lives in Chevy Chase, Maryland, with her husband and four children.