



**Nouns and Verbs Have a Field Day**  
**By Robin Pulver (robinpulver.com)**  
**Illustrated by Lynn Rowe Reed**

## Teacher Guide

About the book:

It's Field Day in Mr. Wright's class and not just for the students. Nouns and verbs want to play their own games, such as tug-of-words and three-legged races. But wait! No one is getting anywhere. First nouns and verbs will have to learn about the kind of teamwork needed to make a sentence.

About the author:

Robin Pulver is the author of *Punctuation Takes a Vacation*, *Axle Annie*, *Christmas for a Kitten*, the Mrs. Toggle books, *The Holiday Handwriting School*, and other popular picture books for children. She lives in upstate New York. [www.RobinPulver.com](http://www.RobinPulver.com)

## Author Interview

1. Which event are you best at for field day?  
I am NOT good at field days. Period.
2. Which do you spend more time revising--nouns or verbs? Why?  
I spend a lot more time revising verbs. Because verbs are where the action is! I like to find colorful verbs that are fun to say and make a story fun to read out loud.

3. Many people think that writing picture books is easy. Is it?

Writing a picture book is NOT EASY for me. Many authors say it is the hardest kind of book to write. That's because you have to write a story that kids and adults can enjoy together. You have to write a story that lends itself to illustration, so there should be action on every page. You need colorful characters and fun language. Finally, you have to do lots of revising, as you search for the way tell the story with as few words as possible. You need to leave plenty of room for illustrations in a 32-page picture book. Writing a picture book is a wonderful, difficult, exciting challenge! It takes me at least a year and usually longer to write one.

Questions to consider:

1. Make a list of five nouns and five verbs in your own classroom.
2. In this story, why were the nouns and verbs left alone?
3. Describe field day at your school. If you don't have one, imagine one.
4. At first, how did the words pair up? Why didn't that work?
5. How did they realize their mistake? Then what did they do?
6. Which team had capitalized letters? Why? Find three capitalized words in your classroom.
7. Explain the difference between a strong verb and a weak one. How can you tell the difference? Give examples of each.
8. Which nouns were hiding from which verbs? Why? Can you think of other funny pairs?
9. What's wrong in the classroom when the kids return?
10. Who had more fun-the words, or the kids? What makes you think so?

## Across the Curriculum

Language Arts:

Bring in newspapers, magazines and other print and have the children cut out nouns and verbs. They can either glue them onto separate large pieces of construction paper or onto pieces of cardstock to add to the classroom collection in a bucket, jar or basket.

Verb Charades:

Just as the words did on their field day, play verb charades. Grab words from the class bucket or basket (or from a newspaper) and take turns acting out these actions!

Compound Nouns:

Brainstorm a list of compound nouns. For fun, create new words and illustrate them.

Nouns and Verbs Letter:

Write a message similar to the one left on the board of Mr. Wright's class. Describe what you like to do on the weekend, leaving blanks to be filled in with nouns and verbs. Let a friend choose the answers.

Noun & Verb Art:

Choose five random nouns and verbs from the class basket or bucket and illustrate them. Use only a pencil and eraser--no color. After ten minutes, discuss which group of words--the nouns or the verbs--was harder to illustrate. Why? Discuss how artists show movement in their work.

-or-

Create a flipbook for one of the verbs that you picked. Show small changes on each page to reveal an entire verb from the beginning of your book to the end. Title it!

Math:

Make a list of thirty words--15 nouns and 15 verbs. Then, figure out three different ways to graph information from that list. For example, graph the number of syllables, number of letters, letters of the alphabet, or what letters they start with. Use your imagination and try to think of as many different ways you could create a graph out of a simple list.

Music:

Sing this song to the tune  
"I've Been Working on the Railroad"

Nouns and verbs have a field day  
Happy as can be.  
Nouns and verbs use teamwork  
Just like you and me.  
Can't you see them play hide and seek  
And try out tug-of-words too?  
Can you see them laugh themselves silly  
Just like me and you!

**Be sure to look for all of the guides for Robin Pulver's books!**

This guide was created by [Tracie Vaughn Zimmer](#), a reading specialist and author of Reaching for Sun. Visit her website to find hundreds of guides to children's literature.