Syllable Sleuths

Use the first syllable to sort and spell two-syllable words.

2.LF.38.b "Apply knowledge of multisyllabic word construction and syllable division principles to encode grade-appropriate words correctly."

NAME _____ DATE _____

OPEN FIRST SYLLABLE

An open first syllable ends in a vowel. The vowel usually says its name.

mu/sic

CLOSED FIRST SYLLABLE

A closed first syllable ends in a consonant. The vowel usually has a short sound.

nap/kin

1 SORT

8 items

Circle OPEN or CLOSED for each word, then choose two words, write their first syllables, and explain how the endings helped you choose.

1. robot — OPEN CLOSED
2. basket — OPEN CLOSED
3. picnic — OPEN CLOSED
4. tiger — OPEN CLOSED
5. paper — OPEN CLOSED
6. rabbit — OPEN CLOSED
7. zero — OPEN CLOSED
8. baby — OPEN CLOSED

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new two-syllable word for OPEN and one for CLOSED, using a slash to show where each word splits.

OPEN _____

CLOSED _____

CHALLENGE

Write a new two-syllable word with a closed first syllable and two of the same consonant in the middle, then split it with a slash.

ANSWER KEY # Syllable Sleuths

GRADE 2 · 2.LF.38.b

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	robot	**OPEN**	Ro/bot: ro ends in a vowel.
2	basket	**CLOSED**	Bas/ket: bas ends in a consonant.
3	picnic	**CLOSED**	Pic/nic: pic ends in a consonant.
4	tiger	**OPEN**	Ti/ger: ti ends in a vowel.
5	paper	**OPEN**	Pa/per: pa ends in a vowel.
6	rabbit	**CLOSED**	Rab/bit: rab ends in a consonant.
7	zero	**OPEN**	Ze/ro: ze ends in a vowel.
8	baby	**OPEN**	Ba/by: ba ends in a vowel.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **OPEN**: pi/lot
- **CLOSED**: den/tist

Challenge: kit/ten

For Part 2, accept any two items with correct first syllables and explanations. For example, ro in robot ends in a vowel, while bas in basket ends in a consonant.