Syllable Sort

Use the first syllable to help read each word.

RF.4.3 "Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding and encoding words. Use combined knowledge of all phoneme-grapheme correspondences..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

OPEN FIRST SYLLABLE

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

ba/by

CLOSED FIRST SYLLABLE

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

nap/kin

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, read each word and circle OPEN or CLOSED for its first syllable; for Part 2, choose two words and explain how you knew where each belongs.

1.	1. ro/bot	OPEN CLOSED
2.	2. pa/per	OPEN CLOSED
3.	3. bas/ket	OPEN CLOSED
4.	4. rab/bit	OPEN CLOSED
5.	5. sun/set	OPEN CLOSED
6.	6. ti/ger	OPEN CLOSED
7.	7. pic/nic	OPEN CLOSED
8.	8. mu/sic	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 word with an open first syllable and one new word with a closed first syllable, using a slash to show where each word splits.

OPEN _____

CLOSED _____

CHALLENGE

Write a word that begins with the prefix re- and has a closed second syllable, then split the word and explain how you know each syllable type.

ANSWER KEY # Syllable Sort

GRADE 4 · RF.4.3

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	1. ro/bot	**OPEN**	The first syllable, ro, ends in a vowel.
2	2. pa/per	**OPEN**	The first syllable, pa, ends in a vowel.
3	3. bas/ket	**CLOSED**	The first syllable, bas, ends in a consonant.
4	4. rab/bit	**CLOSED**	The first syllable, rab, ends in a consonant.
5	5. sun/set	**CLOSED**	The first syllable, sun, ends in a consonant.
6	6. ti/ger	**OPEN**	The first syllable, ti, ends in a vowel.
7	7. pic/nic	**CLOSED**	The first syllable, pic, ends in a consonant.
8	8. mu/sic	**OPEN**	The first syllable, mu, 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**: ze/ro
- **CLOSED**: hel/met

Challenge: re/act: The prefix re is open because it ends in a vowel. Act is closed because it ends in a consonant.

For Part 2, accept any two explanations that correctly identify whether the first syllable ends in a vowel or consonant. For Part 3, check that each sample word is real and split correctly.