Vocabulary Activities for

_My Lucky Day_

by: Keiko Kasza

**startled**: means surprised

As I walked in the dark room, I was startled when the cat ran past me.

**haul**: means to pull or drag

I haul my heavy book bag to the car.

**struggle**: describes someone or something that is trying really hard to become free or do something difficult

I struggled to untie the double knotted shoestring.
Read the book and Introduce the words

Introduce haul
In the story the fox haul the piglet inside his house.
**Haul** means to pull or drag.
- Say the word with me. (haul)
- We use my dad’s truck to **haul** the boat to the lake.
- Can you think of something you have had to **haul** around? Use the word **haul** when you tell about it.
- What’s the word we’ve been talking about? (haul)

Introduce startled
In the story, the fox was sitting at his table when he was **startled** by a knock at the door.
**Startled** means surprised.
- Say the word with me. (startled)
- When someone sneaks up behind you, they may **startle** you.
- Can you think of a time you were **startled** by something or someone? Use the word **startled** when you talk about it.
- What’s the word we’ve been talking about? (startled)

Introduce struggle
When the piglet was being hauled into the kitchen by the fox, he did not try to get away.
- He realized it was no use trying to **struggle** free.
**Struggle** means to try really hard to become free or do something difficult.
- Say the word with me. (struggle)
- I **struggled** to get across the monkey bars the first time I tried. But with practice it became easier.
- Can you think of something of something you really **struggle** with? Use the word **struggle** when you talk about it.
- What’s the word we’ve been talking about? (struggle)

Word Associations
Review words by asking students to help you make a chart with the words and definitions. Use their words as much as possible. (struggle, haul, startled)

- Which word goes with try hard? (struggle)
- Which word goes with drag? (haul)
- Which word goes with scare? (startled)
- Which word goes with make every effort? (struggle)
- Which word goes with lug? (haul)
- Which word goes with shock? (startled)
**Using All the Words**

We talked about 3 words. Let’s think about them.

Show me how your face might look if you felt **startled**.
Show me how your face might look if you were **struggling** with something.
Stand and show me how you might look if you had to **haul** something around.

**Making Choices**  (startled, struggle, haul)
Make a choice between two of the words.

- Learning to do multiplication: **haul** or **struggle**
- Loud thunder: **struggle** or **startled**
- Santa’s sack of toys: **haul** or **struggle**
- Writing with your other hand: **struggle** or **haul**
- Telephone ringing in middle of the night: **struggle** or **startled**
- Broken down car **haul** or **startled**

**Have You Ever?**
Ask the following questions. (Could do turn and talk.)

Have you ever been startled in the middle of the night? Tell us about it.
Have you every had to haul something really heavy? Tell about it.
Describe a time you had to struggle to do something.

**Fill in the Blank**  (startled, struggle, haul)

1. When the teacher slammed her hand on the desk it ______ me.
2. My mom ______ to get me in the doctor’s office because I didn’t want to get a shot.
3. I had to ______ the hay to the barn.
4. I ______ with math.
5. When I walked into the room, I was ______ when everyone yelled, “Surprise!”
6. My pocketbook is too full for me to _____ around all day.

**Answer Key**  
1. startled 2. struggled 3. haul 4. struggle 5. startled 6. haul

Created by: Tamera Wilson @ [www.myheartbelongsinfirst.blogspot.com](http://www.myheartbelongsinfirst.blogspot.com)
**True / False**  (startled, struggle, haul)
Show a thumbs up if the statement makes sense or is true.
Show a thumbs down if the statement is silly or false.
(Could also use a white board and have students write T or F.)

1. I laugh when I am **startled**.
2. I might get tired if I have to **haul** something around all day.
3. A 2 year old may **struggle** if they have to carry a gallon of milk.
4. When I heard the loud scream I was **startled**.
5. I had to **haul** my piece of paper around the room.
6. Some kids **struggle** with learning to read.
7. You can **startle** the brick wall.
8. Girls often pack too much and have to **haul** around large suitcases.
9. If you **struggle** with something it comes easy.

**Answer Key**

**Examples and Non-Examples**
Have students pick the one that is an example of the word.

- **haul**
  - song
  - car

- **startled**
  - when a friend jumped out
  - when you get a new toy
  - from behind a bush

- **struggle**
  - making a free throw
  - brushing your teeth

- **haul**
  - heavy
  - light

- **startled**
  - a loud sneeze
  - a quiet sneeze

- **struggle**
  - crossword puzzle
  - tic tac toe
Multiple Choice

1. If you felt **startled**, you might look ________.
   a. sad
   b. happy
   c. surprised

2. If I **struggled** with the lawn mower ...
   a. it might have been hard to start
   b. it might have been easy to start
   c. it might work nicely

3. Which of the following would be hard to **haul**?
   a. a feather
   b. bag of dog food
   c. a bag of rocks

4. Which would not **startle** you?
   a. a flower
   b. scream
   c. doorbell

5. Which would not **be a struggle** for you?
   a. cleaning out the gutters on the house
   b. rock climbing on a rainy day
   c. writing your name

6. Which would you **haul** with a car?
   a. house
   b. boat
   c. wagon

Answer Key 1. c  2. a  3. c  4. a  5. c  6. b
Make copies of the following 3 words for each student. Use them as response cards so you may check for understanding. As a final check, I give students all 3 words and a half sheet of paper. They illustrate 2 of the words.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>startled</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>haul</td>
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