

Decodable Texts: R-Controlled (er)

"This story uses 'er' pattern words like 'farmer,' 'Carter,' and 'water.' Let's see how one turtle helps his garden bloom!"



The Fern Farmer

Carter was not just any turtle—he was a fern farmer.

He carried water in a tiny cup and wore a red sweater.

Each morning, Carter turned the soil and checked the weather.

If it rained, he danced. If it was dry, he worked harder.

Bees buzzed nearby, and butterflies fluttered over his garden.

One flower whispered, "Thanks for the water!"

Carter gave a proper bow and smiled.

"Happy plants make a happy farmer," he said.

After reading the story, have your child point to and slowly sound out each practice word.

Carter

farmer

water

harder

weather



Name: _____

The Fern Farmer

1. What kind of animal was Carter?

- A. A turtle
- B. A mouse
- C. A rabbit
- D. A bird

2. What did the flower do in the story?

- A. It blinked
- B. It sneezed
- C. It whispered "Thanks"
- D. It flew away

3. Fill in the blank:

"Happy plants make a happy _____," he said.

4. How does Carter show care and responsibility for his plants?

5. What do the "er" words in the story tell you about who Carter is and what he does?



Coaching Guide

Target Skill: er R-Controlled Vowel

Genre: Fiction – Animal Fantasy

High-Frequency Words: he, was, each, the, his

Before Reading

1. This story features “er” words like *farmer*, *Carter*, *harder*, and *fluttered*.
 2. Have you ever cared for a plant or garden?
 3. What would it be like if flowers could talk back to you?
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During Reading

1. **Sounding Out Support:** Help your reader tap and read “er” words like *water*, *farmer*, *harder*, and *fluttered*.
 2. Watch for er words that describe Carter’s job and actions
 3. What does Carter do when it rains or stays dry?
 4. Read the final line with joy and pride in his work
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After Reading

1. Retell how Carter took care of his garden
 2. What made him a good farmer and helper to his plants?
 3. If you could farm one thing, what would it be and why?
 4. Skill Check: Highlight six “er” words in the story
 5. **Fluency Tip:** Read it again with a peaceful, proud tone—like you’re caring for something you love
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Activity Idea

Draw Carter the turtle watering ferns in a sweater with bees and butterflies nearby. Label parts using er words like *farmer*, *water*, *harder*, or *fluttered*. Write one sentence about what made Carter a happy farmer.

Coaching Tip

Let gentle fantasy stories build kindness and decoding—young readers thrive on stories full of care and color.

