

Name _____

Rhyme Ladders Answer Key

Sample Answers

Ladder 1 (-at Family): cat → bat → hat → mat

Ladder 2 (-op Family): hop → top → mop → pop

Ladder 3 (-ake Family): lake → make → bake → rake

Ladder 4 (-ing Family): sing → ring → king → wing

Follow-Up Task (Sample Answer):

- From Ladder 3: *Bake a cake by the lake, / Eat it fast before it breaks.* (Answers will vary depending on student creativity.)

Teacher Notes / Guide

- **Purpose:** Word Family Ladders build **phonemic awareness, decoding skills,** and **fluency** by reinforcing how one sound change can create a new rhyming word. This activity helps students spot patterns quickly and boosts their confidence in reading unfamiliar words.
- **Implementation Tips:**
 - Model one ladder on the board with the class before assigning independent work.
 - Encourage students to say each word aloud as they build the ladder to strengthen sound-to-print connections.
 - Have pairs of students trade ladders and read them aloud to each other.
- **Differentiation:**
 - For struggling readers: provide a word bank with possible ladder words.
 - For advanced readers: extend ladders to five or six steps or add trickier families (-ight, -end, -ore).