## Cat Nap - Teacher Tip Sheet (Page 1 of 3)

Yellow Series - Book 1 - Cat Nap


## - IT IS ESSENTIAL TO PRE-TEACH THE CONCEPTS INTRODUCED IN EACH BOOK PRIOR TO READING! -

## Grapheme/Phoneme Correspondence

## Tips and Activities to Try

Introduced in This Book

- short <a>/ă/, short <0>/ŏ/
- $\langle\mathrm{c}\rangle / \mathrm{k} /,\langle\mathrm{g}>/ \mathrm{g} /$, < s$\rangle / \mathrm{s} /$ unvoiced, $\langle d>/ d /,\langle h>/ h /,<m>/ m /$, <n>/n/, <p>/p/, <t>/t/

Note: Specific ideas for teaching and consolidation activities can be found in our Grapheme/Phoneme Corresponence Background Information Sheet.

Key Concepts to Understand

- $\quad / \mathrm{m} /$ and $/ \mathrm{n} /$ are nasal phonemes, which means the air stream created during articulation is directed through the nasal cavity - nasal phonemes are fun to explore, because the sound stops when you plug your nose
- nasal phonemes can also change the sound of the preceding vowel - be aware of this when reading and writing words that contain <an> and <am>-if your students are not ready for this - save these words for later lessons
- be aware of "stop phonemes" and "continuous phonemes" when having students read and spell words - blending from a stop phoneme to a vowel can be difficult, so it is a good idea to start with continuous phonemes


## Words and Phrases for Reading and Writing

Here is a list of words that can be used for phonemic awareness activities, reading, dictation, games cards, etc.:

- at, cat, nap, sat, dad, sap, had, tap, sad, gap, mad, hat, an, man, pan, tan, can, am, ham, on, cot, hot, hop, dot, nod, dog, hog, mop, pot, sod
Here is a word chain you could complete with blending cards:
- mat $\rightarrow$ map $\rightarrow$ mop $\rightarrow$ top $\rightarrow$ tap $\rightarrow$ tad $\rightarrow$ dad $\rightarrow$ sad $\rightarrow$ sat $\rightarrow$ pat $\rightarrow$ pot $\rightarrow$ hot $\rightarrow$ got $\rightarrow$ not $\rightarrow$ cot $\rightarrow$ cat

Here are phrases that can be used for reading and/or dictation practice. These phrases can be combined to create sentences.

| Noun Phrases | Verb Phrases | Prepositional Phrases |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| a cat | can hop | on a mat |
| a sad dog | got mad | at a tap |
| a tan cat | got on top | on a hot pot |
| a map | can sit | on a cot |

## Cat Nap - Teacher Tip Sheet (Page 2 of 3) <br> Yellow Series - Book 1 - Cat Nap



- IT IS ESSENTIAL TO PRE-TEACH THE CONCEPTS INTRODUCED IN EACH BOOK PRIOR TO READING! -

| Orthographic Conventions/Patterns and Generalisations | Tips and Activities to Try |
| :---: | :---: |
| - short vowel sounds in closed syllables <br> - <c> as default grapheme for /k/ | Key Concepts to Understand <br> - closed syllables have a single vowel that is followed by one or more consonants - the vowel usually makes its short sound <br> - we use $\langle c\rangle$ to represent /k/ unless it is followed by an <e>, <i> or $\langle y\rangle$ (then it is pronounced as $/ \mathrm{s} /$ ), or when /k/ is found at the end of a base (e.g., milk, bank, sick) <br> - some words such as kangaroo, kayak, etc., are not full English words, and therefore do not follow this convention <br> - when teaching $\langle c>/ k /$, be careful to stay away from phases like "<c> says/k/", because <c> also represents other phonemes and can be part of other digraphs such as in school, science, and back <br> Activities to Try <br> - students need practice recognizing and reading words with short vowels - here are some consolidation activities: <br> - Sticky Note Pile Up: have students become detectives and look for closed syllable words on classroom displays, on signs in the school, in books, etc. - write the words they find on sticky notes and place on an anchor chart <br> - Word Sorts: to begin with, the teacher can create the sorts, then have students create their own - the purpose of sorts is to help students see what closed syllables are, and what they are not <br> - More Ideas: https://alongthelearningjourney.wordpress.com/2019/11/12/post-6-consolidation-activities/ |
| Puncuation/Text Features | Tips and Activities to Try |
| - concept of phrase and sentence <br> - period at end of complete sentence <br> - exclamation mark <br> - capitalization of proper nouns | Key Concepts to Understand <br> - a complete sentence contains a subject and a predicate: <br> - subject: the what (or who) the sentence is about <br> - predicate: what the subject is doing/what the subject is being <br> - a complete sentence must always end in punctuation <br> - when we see an exclamation mark, we need to read the sentence in an emphatic way <br> - proper nouns (a noun for a particular person, place or thing) are capitalized |

## Cat Nap - Teacher Tip Sheet (Page 3 of 3)

## Yellow Series - Book 1 - Cat Nap



- IT IS ESSENTIAL TO PRE-TEACH THE CONCEPTS INTRODUCED IN EACH BOOK PRIOR TO READING! -

High Frequency Words Tips and Activities to Try

- "a" (<a> typically pronounced as a schwa)

Key Concepts to Understand

- the word $a$ is usually pronounced with a "schwa" (unstressed vowel sound), rather than a short /ă/ or long /ā/
- English is a stress timed language (review concept from Grapheme/Phoneme Background Sheet)
- unstressed syllables are often reduced (not as clearly articulated or emphasized)
- vowels in unstressed syllables are pronounced as a schwa
- $a$ is a function word - function words are defined as words that have a grammatical purpose/specify grammatical relations, as opposed to content words such as nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs which have a distinct meaning
- function words are often unstressed in a phrase or sentence, thus are pronounced with a schwa


## Activities to Try

- Have students explore the concept of stressed and unstressed words and syllables by saying simple sentences. For instance, say the sentence, "I have to go to a doctor" and have students repeat, stressing every word (like a robot). Repeat the sentence with natural stress and intonation. Hearing the contrast helps students notice that we tend to stress $I, g o$, and doctor, while the have to and to $a$, squish together and are said quickly and are unstressed.

|  | Comprehension Corner - Discussion Ideas |
| :--- | :--- |
| Vocabulary Development | Inferencing |
| • What is a nap? | Why do you think Dad is sad? |
| - Do you like to take naps? | Does Dad stay sad? |
| - Is a nap different from going to sleep at night? |  |
| - Do you have a pet that likes to take naps? |  |
|  |  |
| Making Connections | Retelling/Summarizing |
| • Do you have a pet? | Can you retell the story? |
| - Does your pet have a favourite human? | Do you think "Cat Nap" is a good title for this book? Why or why not? |

## Pig Pit - Teacher Tip Sheet (Page 1 of 2)

## Yellow Series - Book 2 - Pig Pit



## - IT IS ESSENTIAL TO PRE-TEACH THE CONCEPTS INTRODUCED IN EACH BOOK PRIOR TO READING! -

## Grapheme/Phoneme Correspondence

Tips and Activities to Try

## Introduced in This Book

- short <i>/ī/, short <u>/ŭ/
- <s>/z/ voiced, <b>/b/, <f>/f/


## Previously Introduced

Vowels

- short <a>/ă/, short <o>/ŏ/

Consonants

- $\langle c\rangle / k /,\langle g\rangle / g /,\langle s\rangle / s /$ unvoiced, <d>/d/, <h>/h/, <m>/m/, <n>/n/, $<p>/ p /,<t>/ t /$

Note: Once a grapheme and corresponding phoneme have been introduced, they will be listed in this section. Not all concepts will be included in every subsequent book, but they can be included in "Words and Phrases for Reading and Writing" for consolidation.
Punctuation/Text Features

## Key Concepts to Understand

- vowel phonemes are continuous, voiced, and have unobstructed air flow
- the shape of the mouth, tongue and lips distinguish the articulation of one vowel phoneme from the other
- the grapheme <s> can represent /s/ (unvoiced - as in sit) and /z/ (voiced, as in has) (a reminder - don’t say <s> says /s/)
- letter formation should be taught as a pathway (e.g., "magic <c>, up, down $\rightarrow\langle d\rangle$ "), which can help students distinguish between the grapheme <b> and <d>, which are formed very differently


## Words and Phrases for Reading and Writing

Here is a list of words that can be used for phonemic awareness activities, reading, dictation, games cards, etc.:

- it, sit, sip, mid, fad, fig, fin, is, fan, pit, big, pin, nab, pig, has, hid, dig, his, up, sun, hut, cut, hug, nut, cub, bun, dug, tug, hum, mug, nab, bug

Here is a word chain you could complete with blending cards:

- it $\rightarrow$ sit $\rightarrow$ sip $\rightarrow$ dip $\rightarrow$ dim $\rightarrow$ him $\rightarrow$ hum $\rightarrow$ sum $\rightarrow$ sun $\rightarrow$ bun $\rightarrow$ fun $\rightarrow$ fan $\rightarrow$ ban $\rightarrow$ bat $\rightarrow$ bit $\rightarrow$ bin $\rightarrow$ ban

Here are phrases that can be used for reading and/or dictation practice. These phrases can be combined to create sentences.

| Noun Phrases | Verb Phrases | Prepositional Phrases |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| his hut | can hug | up on top |
| a fun hug | had a sip | on a pot |
| his fat pig | can dig a pit | in a big bin |
| a hot bun | cut a fig | at a big hut |

## Key Concepts to Understand

- students need to understand that attending to punctuation is important when reading
- if a comma is in the text, students need to pause, then continue reading


## Pig Pit - Teacher Tip Sheet (Page 2 of 2) <br> Yellow Series - Book 2 - Pig Pit

- IT IS ESSENTIAL TO PRE-TEACH THE CONCEPTS INTRODUCED IN EACH BOOK PRIOR TO READING! -


## Comprehension Corner - Discussion Ideas

## Vocabulary Development

- What is a pit?
- What is Pig holding in her hand on Page 14?


## Making Connections

- Have you ever dug a pit or built something in the sand? In the grass?
- What activities do you like to do on hot summer days?

Inferencing

- Why do you think Pig dug the pit?
- How do you think Pig is feeling at the end of the book?


## Retelling/Summarizing

- Can you retell the story?


## The Dip - Teacher Tip Sheet (Page 1 of 3) <br> Yellow Series - Book 3 - The Dip

- IT IS ESSENTIAL TO PRE-TEACH THE CONCEPTS INTRODUCED IN EACH BOOK PRIOR TO READING! -


## Grapheme/Phoneme Correspondence

Tips and Activities to Try

## Introduced in This Book

- consonant digraph <th>/TH/ voiced


## (only in the)

## Previously Introduced

## Vowels

- short <a>/ă/, short <o>/ŏ/, short <i>/î/, short <u>/ŭ/

Consonants

- $\langle\mathrm{c}\rangle / \mathrm{k} /,\langle\mathrm{g}>/ \mathrm{g} /$, <s>/s/ and/z/, $<d>/ d /,<h>/ h /,<m>/ m /,<n>/ n /$, <p>/p/, <t>/t/, <b>/b/, <f>/f/


## Key Concepts to Understand

- <th> (voiced) is introduced in this book as part of the word the (<th> also has an unvoiced phoneme as in think)
- the mouth position for both phonemes is the same, and distinct (tongue between teeth)
- in the word and, the nasal <n> influences the phoneme produced by the <a> - be aware of this and support as needed

Tip: ask the children to say the word and while plugging and unplugging their nose, notice that nothing changes in their mouths

## Words and Phrases for Reading and Writing

Here is a list of words that can be used for phonemic awareness activities, reading, dictation, games cards, etc.:

- an, man, can, tan, ban, fan, pan, and, pat, sat, bin, bit, sit, fit, din, fin, dip, sip, tap, sap, top, mop, pot, hog, hot, hug, tug, bug, bun, sun, fun, nut

Here is a word chain you could complete with blending cards:

- and $\rightarrow$ an $\rightarrow$ man $\rightarrow$ fan $\rightarrow$ can $\rightarrow$ pan $\rightarrow$ pat $\rightarrow$ sat $\rightarrow$ sit $\rightarrow$ fit $\rightarrow$ pit $\rightarrow$ pot $\rightarrow$ hot $\rightarrow$ hut $\rightarrow$ hug $\rightarrow$ bug $\rightarrow$ big $\rightarrow$ pig

Here are phrases that can be used for reading and/or dictation practice. These phrases can be combined to create sentences.

| Noun Phrases | Verb Phrases | Prepositional Phrases |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| the sun | dug a pit | in the tub |
| a pig and a tub | can hug | at the pit |
| his big fan | had fun | on a cot |
| a cat and a dog | can bug the man | in the hot sun |

You can differentiate for your students by dropping some of the words in these phases (e.g., "dug a pit" can just be "dug").

## The Dip - Teacher Tip Sheet (Page 2 of 3)

Yellow Series - Book 3 - The Dip

- IT IS ESSENTIAL TO PRE-TEACH THE CONCEPTS INTRODUCED IN EACH BOOK PRIOR TO READING! -

| Orthographic Conventions/Patterns and Generalisations | Tips and Activities to Try |
| :---: | :---: |
| - concept of digraph | Key Concepts to Understand <br> - digraph: a grapheme comprised of 2 letters representing one phoneme <br> - digraphs can be made from any combination of vowels and consonants <br> - consonant digraphs: 2 consonant letters representing one phoneme (e.g., <sh> representing ///) <br> - vowel digraph: 2 vowel letters representing one phoneme (e.g., <oa> representing long /ō/) |
| High Frequency Words | Tips and Activities to Try |
| - "the" (<e> typically pronounced as a schwa) <br> - "and" (<nd> is the only consonant cluster in the Yellow Series, and is only used in "and") | Key Concepts to Understand <br> - the word the is usually pronounced with a "schwa" (unstressed vowel sound), rather than a short /ĕ/ or long /ē/ <br> - English is a stress timed language (review concept from Grapheme/Phoneme Background sheet) <br> - unstressed syllables are often reduced (not as clearly articulated or emphasized) <br> - vowels in unstressed syllables are pronounced as a schwa <br> - the is a function word - function words are defined as words that have a grammatical purpose/specify grammatical relations, as opposed to content words such as nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs which have a distinct meaning <br> - function words are often unstressed in a phrase or sentence, thus are pronounced with a schwa <br> - note the is sometimes stressed, at which point the <e> usually represents the long /ē/, which is expected for open syllables (vowel at end of syllable tends to make its long sound, for example in she and me) <br> Note: think about how we pronounce the at the end of a story (the end) compared to when the is unstressed (for the kids...) <br> Activities to Try <br> - As described in "Cat Nap," have students explore the concept of stressed and unstressed words and syllables by saying simple sentences. For instance, say the sentence, "Let's go to the movies" and have students repeat it, stressing every word equally (like a robot). Repeat the sentence with natural stress and intonation. Hearing the contrast helps students notice that we tend to stress go and movies, while the let's and to the, squish together and are said quickly and are unstressed. |

## The Dip - Teacher Tip Sheet (Page 3 of 3) <br> Yellow Series - Book 3 - The Dip

## - IT IS ESSENTIAL TO PRE-TEACH THE CONCEPTS INTRODUCED IN EACH BOOK PRIOR TO READING! -

## Vocabulary Development

- What is a dip?
- Is a dip different from a swim?


## Comprehension Corner

## Making Connections

- How do you stay cool in the summer?

Inferencing

How do animals stay cool in the summer?

- Why do you think Pig was so hot?
- Why do you think Cat and Dog joined Pig in the tub?


## Retelling/Summarizing

- Can you retell the story?


## On the Rug - Teacher Tip Sheet (Page 1 of 2) <br> Yellow Series - Book 4 - On The Rug



## - IT IS ESSENTIAL TO PRE-TEACH THE CONCEPTS INTRODUCED IN EACH BOOK PRIOR TO READING! -



## On the Rug - Teacher Tip Sheet (Page 2 of 2)

## Yellow Series - Book 4 - On The Rug



## - IT IS ESSENTIAL TO PRE-TEACH THE CONCEPTS INTRODUCED IN EACH BOOK PRIOR TO READING! -

| Morphology |
| :--- |
| Introduced in this Book |
| - concept of "base" (free base can |
| stand alone as a word) and concept |
| of "suffix" |
| - suffix <-s> (both /s/and /z/) as third |
| person singular verb present tense |

Note: there are two other functions of suffix <-s>: plural as in cats and possessive as in cat's, which will be introduced later in the series

## Comprehension Corner

## Vocabulary Development

- What does it mean when something tips?
- What is a rug? Can you think of other words we use for a rug?


## Making Connections

- Do you have a pet? If you were able to get any pet, which would you choose?


## Inferencing

- How do you think Lan feels when Dog jumps on her lap?
- How do you think Lan is feeling at the end of the story? How do you know?


## Retelling/Summarizing

- Can you retell the story?
- Which part of the story did you like the most?


## The Hot Dock - Teacher Tip Sheet (Page 1 of 2)

Yellow Series - Book 5 - The Hot Dock


## - IT IS ESSENTIAL TO PRE-TEACH THE CONCEPTS INTRODUCED IN EACH BOOK PRIOR TO READING! -

| Grapheme/Phoneme Correspondence |
| :--- |
| Introduced in This Book |
| - consonant digraphs <ck>/k/ |
| and <ff>/f/ |
| <z>/z/ |

Digraphs

- <th>/TH/ voiced (only in the)

Additional Concepts

- final consonant cluster <nd> (only in and)


## Key Concepts to Understand

- graphemes can represent more than one phoneme (e.g., <s> can represent/s/and/z/ - this has already been explored)
- students can now begin to explore the concept that phonemes can be represented by more than one grapheme
- introduce <z> is another grapheme that can represent /z/
- <ck> is a digraph - a digraph is a grapheme comprised of 2 letters representing one phoneme, in this case, /k/ (students have also been introduced to <c> representing the phoneme $/ \mathrm{k} /$ )
- <ff> is a digraph - this digraph represents the phoneme /f/


## Words and Phrases for Reading and Writing

Here is a list of words that can be used for phonemic awareness activities, reading, dictation, games cards, etc.:

- sack, back, lack, hack, sick, lick, lock, sock, luck, tuck, muck, deck, off, puff, cuff, tiff, zip, zap, zig, zag, rag, ran, man, tan, runs, lip, lap, lug

Here is a word chain you could complete with blending cards:

- sack $\rightarrow$ lack $\rightarrow$ pack $\rightarrow$ pick $\rightarrow$ lick $\rightarrow$ sick $\rightarrow$ sock $\rightarrow$ lock $\rightarrow$ pock $\rightarrow$ puck $\rightarrow$ puff $\rightarrow$ cuff $\rightarrow$ cup $\rightarrow$ pup $\rightarrow$ pip $\rightarrow$ zip $\rightarrow$ zap $\rightarrow$ zag $\rightarrow$ zig

Here are phrases that can be used for reading and/or dictation practice. These phrases can be combined to create sentences. A good opportunity arises to address syntax if the resulting sentence is not grammatically correct (e.g., Zack and his dog picks up the pot. $\rightarrow$ Zack and his dog pick up the pot.)

| Noun Phrases | Verb Phrases | Prepositional Phrases |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| a big rip | hops up | in his pack |
| a zig zag | has bad luck | on his cuff |
| his lock | picks up the pot | off the dock |
| Zack and his dog | zips the bag | in his sock |

The Hot Dock - Teacher Tip Sheet (Page 2 of 2)
Yellow Series - Book 5 - The Hot Dock


- IT IS ESSENTIAL TO PRE-TEACH THE CONCEPTS INTRODUCED IN EACH BOOK PRIOR TO READING! -

| Morphology | Tips and Activities to Try |
| :---: | :---: |
| Previously Introduced <br> - suffix <-s> third person singular <br> Note: Once a morpheme has been introduced, it will be listed in this section. Not all concepts will be included in every subsequent book, but they can be included in "Words and Phrases for Reading and Writing" for consolidation. | - note suffix <-s> as students encounter it and support where needed |
| Orthographic Conventions/Patterns and Generalisations | Tips and Activities to Try |
| - use <ck> to represent/k/ at the end of a base after single (short) vowel | Key Concepts to Understand <br> - the digraph <ck> representing /k/ is found in final base position, after a single short vowel <br> Activities to Try <br> - provide students with a deck of word cards to read and/or spell including the digraph <ck> <br> - have students play a board game (any board game will work) - before rolling the dice, student needs to either read or spell a word from the deck <br> - have students make their own list of <ck> words to use in the above game <br> - some additional <ck> activities can be found at: https://alongthelearningjourney.wordpress.com/2019/12/28/post-8-closed-syllable-spelling-patterns/ |
| Comprehension Corner - Discussion Ideas |  |
| Vocabulary Development <br> - What is a dock? Where do you find do <br> - What does Zack have on his arms? W <br> Making Connections <br> - Have you ever gone swimming in a la <br> - Have you ever jumped into water? W | Inferencing <br> - Why do you think the dock is so hot? <br> - Why is Zack no longer hot? <br> Retelling/Summarizing <br> - Can you retell the story? <br> did you jump off? |

- IT IS ESSENTIAL TO PRE-TEACH THE CONCEPTS INTRODUCED IN EACH BOOK PRIOR TO READING! -

| Grapheme/Phoneme Correspondence |
| :---: |
| Introduced in This Book <br> - short <e>/ĕ/ <br> - <x>/ks/ <br> Previously Introduced <br> Vowels <br> - short <a>/ă/, short <o>/ŏ/, short <i>/ī/, short <u>/ŭ/ <br> Consonants ```- <c>/k/, <g>/g/, <s>/s/ and/z/, <d>/d/,<h>/h/,<m>/m/,<n>/n/, <p>/p/,<t>/t/, <b>/b/, <f>/f/, <r>/r/, <l>/l/, <z>/z/``` |
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Digraphs

- <th>/TH/ voiced (only in the), <ck>/k/, <ff>/f/

Additional Concepts

- final consonant cluster <nd> (only in and)


## Key Concepts to Understand

- vowel phonemes are continuous, voiced, and have unobstructed air flow
- what distinguishes the articulation of one vowel phoneme from the other is the shape of the mouth, tongue and lips
- explicit teaching prevents confusion (e.g., the short /e/ phoneme can be confused with short /i/ phoneme - use a key word to help students remember and distinguish between these sounds (e.g., <e> edge /e/, <i> itchy /i/), and draw attention to the slight changes that occur in their mouths as they move between these phonemes
- the grapheme <x> represents/ks/, which is actually two phones combined - this can be challenging for students, extra practice may be needed with these words


## Words and Phrases for Reading and Writing

Here is a list of words that can be used for phonemic awareness activities, reading, dictation, games cards, etc.:

- bed, red, hen, den, hem, led, let, men, met, pen, pet, ten, fed, box, fox, fix, six, mix, lax, tax, luck, lock, back, sack, sick, lick, puck, muck, duck, sock, dock

Here is a word chain you could complete with blending cards:

- bet $\rightarrow$ set $\rightarrow$ met $\rightarrow$ men $\rightarrow$ den $\rightarrow$ deck $\rightarrow$ dock $\rightarrow$ lock $\rightarrow$ lick $\rightarrow$ lip $\rightarrow$ sip $\rightarrow$ six $\rightarrow$ fix $\rightarrow$ fax $\rightarrow$ max $\rightarrow$ tax $\rightarrow$ tux $\rightarrow$ tuck $\rightarrow$ buck $\rightarrow$ bun

Here are phrases that can be used for reading and/or dictation practice. These phrases can be combined to create sentences. A good opportunity arises to address syntax if the resulting sentence is not grammatically correct (e.g., Six cats packs the box.
$\rightarrow$ Six cats pack the box.)

| Noun Phrases | Verb Phrases | Prepositional Phrases |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| six cats | can fix the fan | in the bed |
| a red fox | packs the box | on the deck |
| the big pig pen | can pet the dog | at his den |
| his big box | met a hen | off the dock |

You can differentiate for your students by dropping some of the words in these phases (e.g., "the big pig pen" can just be "the pen").


## Pets - Teacher Tip Sheet (Page 1 of 3) <br> Yellow Series - Book 7 - Pets



## - IT IS ESSENTIAL TO PRE-TEACH THE CONCEPTS INTRODUCED IN EACH BOOK PRIOR TO READING! -

|  |
| :---: |
| Introduced in This Book <br> - <v>/v/, <k>/k/ <br> Previously Introduced <br> Vowels <br> - all short vowels <br> Consonants $\begin{aligned} & \text { - }<c>/ k /,<g>/ g /,<s>/ s / \text { and } / z /, \\ &<d>/ d /,<h>/ h /,<m>/ m /,<n>/ n /, \\ &<p>/ p /,<t>/ t /,<b>/ b /,<f>/ f /,<r>/ r / \text { / } \\ &<l>/ l /,<z>/ z /,<x>/ k s / \end{aligned}$ |
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Digraphs

- <th>/TH/ voiced (only in the), <ck>/k/, <ff>/f/

Additional Concepts

- final consonant cluster <nd> (only in and)

Key Concepts to Understand

- phonemes can be represented by more than one grapheme
- students now have 3 ways to represent the phoneme /k/: <c>, <k>, <ck>
- we use <c> to represent/k/ unless it is followed by an <e>, <i> or <y> (then it is pronounced as $/ \mathrm{s} /$ ), or when $/ \mathrm{k} /$ is found at the end of a base (e.g., milk, bank, sick)
- some words such as kangaroo, kayak, etc., are not full English words, and therefore do not follow this convention
- when teaching <c>/k/, be careful to stay away from phases like "<c> says/k/", because <c> also represents other phonemes and can be part of other digraphs such as in school, science, and back


## Words and Phrases for Reading and Writing

Here is a list of words that can be used for phonemic awareness activities, reading, dictation, games cards, etc.:

- kit, kick, kid, kip, kids, vet, van, vets, pet, pets, dock, sock, peck, deck, lick, sick, sack, tack, red, bed, hen, den, net, set, fox, box, six, mix, fix, fax

Here is a word chain you could complete with blending cards:

- kit $\rightarrow$ kid $\rightarrow$ kip $\rightarrow$ kick $\rightarrow$ lick $\rightarrow$ sick $\rightarrow$ sip $\rightarrow$ sit $\rightarrow$ set $\rightarrow$ vet $\rightarrow$ vets $\rightarrow$ pets $\rightarrow$ pet $\rightarrow$ pen $\rightarrow$ pan $\rightarrow$ van $\rightarrow$ vans

Here are phrases that can be used for reading and/or dictation practice. These phrases can be combined to create sentences. A good opportunity arises to address syntax if the resulting sentence is not grammatically correct (e.g., Six kids packs the kit.
$\rightarrow$ Six kids pack the kit.)

| Noun Phrases | Verb Phrases | Prepositional Phrases |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| his vans | can kick | to the deck |
| six kids | gets his socks | in the van |
| Kip and his pets | can get a van | on the rocks |
| a big red van | packs the kit | off to the vet |

You can differentiate for your students by dropping some of the words in these phases (e.g., "Kip and his pets" can just be "Kip").

## Pets - Teacher Tip Sheet (Page 2 of 3) <br> Yellow Series - Book 7 - Pets



- IT IS ESSENTIAL TO PRE-TEACH THE CONCEPTS INTRODUCED IN EACH BOOK PRIOR TO READING! -

| Orthographic Conventions/Patterns and Generalisations | Tips and Activities to Try |
| :---: | :---: |
| - <k> as /k/ (before <e>, <i> or <y>) | Key Concepts to Understand <br> - use <k> to represent /k/ before <e>, <i>, or <y> <br> - use <ck> to represent /k/ in final base position, after a single short vowel <br> - complete English words do not end in <v> |
| Morphology | Tips and Activities to Try |
| Introduced in this Book <br> - suffix <-s> (both /s/ and /z/) as plural <br> Previously Introduced <br> - suffix <-s> third person singular <br> Note: there are three functions of suffix <-s>: plural, third person singular verb present tense, possessive | Key Concepts to Understand <br> - review: a base is a structural element that forms the foundation of a written word (the term "root" refers to the etymological/historical source of the base) <br> - a free base is a base that functions independently/forms a complete English word on its own <br> - a suffix is a morpheme attached after a base - often changes the grammatical structure or the "sense" of a word <br> - one of the functions of suffix $\langle-s>$ is to indicate the base is plural <br> - the suffix $\langle-s\rangle$ represents the unvoiced phoneme /s/ if it follows an unvoiced phoneme (e.g., jumps, cats) <br> - the suffix <-s> represents the voiced phoneme /z/ if it follows a voiced phoneme (e.g., dogs, calls) <br> Activities to Try <br> - introducing word sums can be valuable at this time <br> - pet $+\mathrm{s} \rightarrow$ pets <br> - kid $+s \rightarrow$ kids <br> - van $+s \rightarrow$ vans <br> - use the phrase "is rewritten as" for the arrow in a word sum |
| High Frequency Words | Tips and Activities to Try |
| - "to" | Key Concepts to Understand <br> - to, two and too are homophones (words that are pronounced the same but have different meanings) <br> - homophones usually have different spelling, which helps readers differentiate between the words <br> - to is a function word, and as such, it has as few letters as possible (e.g., to has fewer letters than too and two) <br> - the <o> is often pronounced as a schwa - say the sentence, "I am going to the store" to help demonstrate this <br> - making connections to similar words such as do and who can help students remember the spelling of to |

## Pets - Teacher Tip Sheet (Page 3 of 3) <br> Yellow Series - Book 7 - Pets

- IT IS ESSENTIAL TO PRE-TEACH THE CONCEPTS INTRODUCED IN EACH BOOK PRIOR TO READING! -

| Comprehension Corner - Discussion Ideas |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| Vocabulary Development | Inferencing |
| - Can you think of a word that means the same as kid? | - How do you think Kim is feeling on page 13 ? Why? <br> - Why do you think the author states, "It is fun to get pets!"? |
| Making Connections | Retelling/Summarizing |
| - Do you have a pet? If you were able to get any pet, which would you choose? | - Which page of this text was your favourite? Explain why you enjoyed reading it. |

## Fun in the Mud! - Teacher Tip Sheet (Page 1 of 2)

## Yellow Series - Book 8 - Fun in the Mud!

## - IT IS ESSENTIAL TO PRE-TEACH THE CONCEPTS INTRODUCED IN EACH BOOK PRIOR TO READING! -

| Grapheme/Phoneme Correspondence | Tips and Activities to Try |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Introduced in This Book <br> - <w>/w/, <j>/j/ <br> - consonant digraphs <zz>/z/, <ss>/s/, and <l\|>/I/ <br> Previously Introduced <br> Vowels <br> - all short vowels <br> Consonants | Key Concepts to Understand <br> - the phoneme represented by <w> can be hard to pronounce in isolation (e.g., without a schwa "w-uh") - ask students to get their mouth in the /w/ position, and then blend straight into the word (e.g., /w/, /e/, /t/ NOT /w-uh/, /e/, /t/) <br> Words and Phrases for Reading and Writing <br> Here is a list of words that can be used for phonemic awareness activities, reading, dictation, games cards, etc.: <br> - wet, win, wit, well, wag, web, wig, will, jet, jazz, jam, jiff, jig, jug, jog, jab, job, mess, less, hiss, bill, pill, doll, sill, off, huff, buff, puff, buzz, fuzz <br> Here is a word chain you could complete with blending cards: <br> - wet $\rightarrow$ wit $\rightarrow$ win $\rightarrow$ will $\rightarrow$ well $\rightarrow$ bell $\rightarrow$ tell $\rightarrow$ ten $\rightarrow$ tin $\rightarrow$ tiff $\rightarrow$ jiff $\rightarrow$ jig $\rightarrow$ jug $\rightarrow$ jog $\rightarrow$ job $\rightarrow$ jab $\rightarrow$ jazz $\rightarrow$ razz $\rightarrow$ ran $\rightarrow$ pan $\rightarrow$ pass <br> Here are phrases that can be used for reading and/or dictation practice. These phrases can be combined to create sentences. A good opportunity arises to address syntax if the resulting sentence is not grammatically correct (e.g., Jazz and his doll jogs in the muck. $\rightarrow$ Jazz and his doll jog in the muck. ) |  |  |
| Digraphs <br> - <th>/TH/ voiced (only in the), <ck>/k/, <ff>/f/ | Noun Phrases | Verb Phrases | Prepositional Phrases |
|  | Jazz and his doll | will buzz | at the well |
|  | a big je | will huff and puff | on the hill |
| Additional Concepts <br> - final consonant cluster <nd> (only in and) | a big mess | got the pass | to the jet |
|  | his red jug | jogs in the muck | off the big deck |

## Fun in the Mud! - Teacher Tip Sheet (Page 2 of 2) <br> Yellow Series - Book 8 - Fun in the Mud!

- IT IS ESSENTIAL TO PRE-TEACH THE CONCEPTS INTRODUCED IN EACH BOOK PRIOR TO READING! -



## Run! - Teacher Tip Sheet (Page 1 of 2) <br> Yellow Series - Book 9 - Run!

## - IT IS ESSENTIAL TO PRE-TEACH THE CONCEPTS INTRODUCED IN EACH BOOK PRIOR TO READING! -

## Grapheme/Phoneme Correspondence

## Tips and Activities to Try

## Introduced in This Book

- <y>/y/ as a consonant


## Previously Introduced

## Vowels

- all short vowels


## Consonants

- <c>/k/, <g>/g/, <s>/s/ and/z/, $\langle d>/ d /,<h>/ h /,<m>/ m /,<n>/ n /$, $<\mathrm{p}>/ \mathrm{p} /,<\mathrm{t}\rangle / \mathrm{t} /,<\mathrm{b}\rangle / \mathrm{b} /,<\mathrm{f}>/ \mathrm{f} /,<\mathrm{r} / \mathrm{r} /$, <|>/|/, <z>/z/, <x>/ks/, <v>/v/, <k>/k/, <w>/w/, <j>/j/


## Digraphs

- <th>/TH/ voiced (only in the), <ck>/k/, <ff>/f/, <zz>/z/, <ss>/s/, <||>|||

Additional Concepts

- final consonant cluster <nd> (only in and)


## Key Concepts to Understand

- <y> can represent a consonant sound and a vowel sound
- be sure to introduce the phoneme $/ \mathrm{y}$ / as one of the phonemes that can be represented by the grapheme <y>
- the consonant phoneme represented by <y> can be hard to pronounce in isolation (e.g., without a schwa " $y$-uh") - ask students to get their mouth in the /y/ position, and then blend straight into the word vowel (e.g., /y/, /e/, /s/ NOT / y -uh/, /e/, /s/)


## Words and Phrases for Reading and Writing

Here is a list of words that can be used for phonemic awareness activities, reading, dictation, games cards, etc.:

- yes, yet, yum, yuck, yell, yam, yap, yack, yip, fizz, buzz, ill, cuff, mill, fill, boss, toss, will, web, wet, jet, jag, jug, job, jazz, fuzz, kids, kick, vet, pets

Here is a word chain you could complete with blending cards:

- yes $\rightarrow$ yet $\rightarrow$ yell $\rightarrow$ well $\rightarrow$ will $\rightarrow$ win $\rightarrow$ wit $\rightarrow$ sit $\rightarrow$ sat $\rightarrow$ sap $\rightarrow$ yap $\rightarrow$ yam $\rightarrow$ yack $\rightarrow$ back $\rightarrow$ buck $\rightarrow$ buff $\rightarrow$ puff $\rightarrow$ cuff $\rightarrow$ cut $\rightarrow$ cot $\rightarrow$ lot $\rightarrow$ loss

Here are phrases that can be used for reading and/or dictation practice. These phrases can be combined to create sentences. A good opportunity arises to address syntax if the resulting sentence is not grammatically correct (e.g., Jazz and his cat yells at the dog. $\rightarrow$ Jazz and his cat yell at the dog.)

| Noun Phrases | Verb Phrases | Prepositional Phrases |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| a big yam | yells at the dog | in the muck |
| the red fox | did yip and yap | at the jet |
| Jazz and his cat | can kick the puck | to the well |
| his red pup | will fill the cup | on a big hill |

You can differentiate for your students by dropping some of the words in these phases (e.g., "Jazz and his cat" can just be "Jazz").


## Max - Teacher Tip Sheet (Page 1 of 2)

Yellow Series - Book 10 - Max

- IT IS ESSENTIAL TO PRE-TEACH THE CONCEPTS INTRODUCED IN EACH BOOK PRIOR TO READING! -



## Max - Teacher Tip Sheet (Page 2 of 2)

Yellow Series - Book 10 - Max

- IT IS ESSENTIAL TO PRE-TEACH THE CONCEPTS INTRODUCED IN EACH BOOK PRIOR TO READING! -

Comprehension Corner - Discussion Ideas

## Vocabulary Development

- What is a tub?
- Do you have a tub in your home? How is it different from Max's tub?


## Making Connections

- Would you like to have Max as a pet? Why or why not?
- What do you like to do for fun?


## Inferencing

- Why do you think Max's mom gave him a bath?
- Why do you think the author describes Max as "fun." Do you agree?


## Retelling/Summarizing

- What did you learn about Max in this book?

These sheets are being offered as a free download because the more we understand our language, the more powerful decodable books can be for our students. Each tip sheet provides Key Concepts to Understand and Tips and Activities for Grapheme/Phoneme Correspondence, Orthographic Conventions/Patterns and Generalisations, Morphology, and Phonetically Irregular Words. It is essential to pre-teach the concepts using this tip sheet prior to reading the book. There is nothing inherently decodable about a book. Decodability is a relationship between the student and the book. If the concepts in a book have been taught, the book is decodable.

The information for these sheets has been compiled from a wide variety of sources. Many thanks to those in the field who have researched, practised, and shared their knowledge with educatosrs. Please note - these sheets are based on our current understanding, both from our studies and from our personal experience. As we continue to learn, our understanding will evolve. If we reach a point where we feel these sheets need to be adjusted, we will do so and provide updated versions for free download

Here is a list of the resources we have used and courses/workshops we have completed

| Source | Details |
| :---: | :---: |
| https://funlearning.ca/ <br> - O-G Fundamentals/O-G Associate Practitioner <br> - O-G practicum <br> - SWI Workshop <br> - Grammar Workshop | Liisa Freure is an OG Fellow and teacher trainer based in Toronto. I highly recommend her courses, and cannot thank her enough for getting me started on this journey! Liisa provides OG training with supervised practicums, as well as a range of linguistic workshops. |
| https://rebeccaloveless.com/ <br> - Teaching Real Script <br> - SWI for Early Readers | Rebecca Loveless is a Structured Word Inquiry Coach based in California. Her courses are practical, informative, and inspirational - a great way to see how morphology can be explored with young learners! |
| Beneath the Surface of Words - Sue Hegland <br> - https://learningaboutspelling.com/ <br> - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7DEuTWa0g5E\&t=4s (Morphology, Important From the Beginning) | Sue Hegland is the author of "Beneath the Surface of Words", which is a fantastic resource that has significantly broadened my understanding of morphology. Her attached youtube video is also very informative. |
| Speech to Print - Dr. Louisa Moats | This book covers many fundamentals of the English Language - it is a great resource to build a solid background and understanding across <br> a range of literacy topics. It's a heavy read, but worth it! |
| Uncovering the Logic of English - Denise Eide | This book is my go-to reference book for spelling and spelling conventions. It's great to have on standby when developing lesson materials! |
| UFLI Foundations - Holly Lane and Valentina Contesse <br> - https://ufli.education.ufl.edu/resources/ | This is a program from the University of Florida Literacy Institute. The background section at the beginning of the manual is very informative, and there are many, many free resources available on their website. This resource is definitely worth checking out! |
| Wordtorque <br> - https://wordtorque.com/ <br> - https://www.thehfwproject.com/ <br> - https://wordtorque.com/category/engagewthepage/ | The Wordtorque site by Fiona Hamilton has a wealth of resources for teachers. Links can be found to the High Frequency Word Project (created in partnership with Rebecca Loveless) and Engage with the Page (word inquiry through picture books). Their conference last year was amazing! |
| Etymonline <br> - https://www.etymonline.com/ | Etymonline is an online etymology dictionary. It does not give definitions, rather "explanations of what our words meant and how they sounded 600 or 2,000 years ago". It is a great resource to use if you are trying to determine the history of words and/or if words share a common root in history. |

