

# Birthday Skates

## Teacher Resources

**Word Count:** 228

**ATOS:** 1.5

### High-Frequency Words:

a	for	her	please	two
are	from	is	said	want
birthday	give	now	table	was
down	have	paper	the	



### Focus Skill: Long /a/

This book features words with long /a/ spelling patterns for decoding practice.

### Decoding Skills:

- Set 1 Skills: Letter-Sound Correspondence, Word Building, CVC Words
- Set 2 Skills: Consonant Blends, Consonant Digraphs, Double Consonants
- CVCe words
- Vowel Teams

### Discussion Questions:

1. On what special day does this story take place? How do you know?  
*Possible Answers: Kate's birthday / she says "Today is my birthday;" Faith gives her a birthday present*
2. How does Kate feel about this day?  
*Possible Answers: excited, happy*
3. What do Kate and Faith do to celebrate?  
*Possible Answers: eat pancakes, go skating*
4. How does Faith show she is a good big sister?  
*Possible Answers: she makes Kate pancakes; she gives Kate a birthday present; she takes Kate skating; she helps Kate learn to skate*



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**Extension Activity:**

### Long /a/ Match



**Materials:** Long /a/ Match printable, pencil, scissors (optional)

**Purpose:** Students will identify and practice long /a/ spelling patterns with the Long /a/ Match printable.

**Procedure:**

1. Print Long /a/ Match printable (one copy per student).
2. Look at the objects pictured on page 1. Say the name of each object.
3. Find the long /a/ spelling pattern (at the bottom of the page) that completes the object's name.
4. Write the correct long /a/ spelling pattern to complete the object's name.
5. Keep going until you have all the object names completed.

**Variations:**

- Students can complete this activity independently, in partners or small groups, or one-on-one with a helper. Each student should complete their own copy.
- Laminate the Long /a/ Match printable for repeated use (e.g., in a phonics center).
- Extra practice: encourage students to cut the words out (page 3) and match them to the pictures (page 1 or page 2).
- Challenge: encourage students to complete page 4 of the Long /a/ Match printable by writing the full name under each object.