

Word Work Lesson Plan and Activities

Instructional Focus Based on the Words in the Book

Word Work
A Color of His Own
By: Leo Lionni
Grade Level: 1 / Guided Reading Level: 1

Instructional Focus:
Vowel Digraphs and Diphthongs

Background:
Vowel digraphs are those spelling patterns that use two letters to represent a single vowel sound.
The "ea" in beat is a vowel digraph as in "beat." Because there are pairs, care must be taken when vowel pairs are digraphs, the two both letter sounds are heard.

Examples:

long a (ai, ay)		long e (ee)	
slay	gray	green	leaf
gray	leaf	chameleon	day
always	cheerfully	own	leaf
remain	leaf	they	leaf
afraid	see	thought	cheerfully
tail	chameleon	leaf	chameleon
long a (ai, ay)	long e (ee)	remain	leaf

Sample Anchor Chart

ai	ay	ee	oo	ow	od	oa
tail	gray	see	oo	ow	od	oa

Step 1: Introduce the Focus of Word Work

Introduce Digraphs and Diphthongs

- Remind students that two letters often work together to make one sound. You might say, "We can think of them like colors. When you mix two colors, like green and yellow together, you get blue."
- On the board, draw a Venn diagram, with an "a" on one side and an "e" on the other. In the middle put "ai" and explain that in most cases, these two letters together say the long a sound. Erase the letters, leaving the diagram, and repeat with ay, ea, ee, oo and ow. Then erase your diagram.
- Next, draw a four column chart with the headings "ai/ay", "ea/ee", "oo/ow" and "od/oal" - use a different color for each if possible.
- Invite students to brainstorm words to fit in each category. Add the words to the chart.
- Optional: Differentiate instruction; provide struggling readers with spell-easier words, such as cow, owl and tall, etc. Ask them to spell the words and choose the correct column.
- Leave the chart on the board as a resource for the remainder of the lesson.

Step 2: Connect Word Work to Reading

Digraphs and Diphthongs in the Text

- Provide each student with a Vowel Buddy card (mix the cards evenly).
- Invite students to hold up their card and make the sound represented on their card.
- Read the text aloud to the class. Instruct students to hold up their cards when their vowel buddy occurs in the text (Make a special point to highlight oddball words).
- Each time a combination occurs, pause and point it out.

Examples of Digraphs and Diphthongs Found in the Text:

green	heather	remain
gray	day	leaf
their	chameleon	gray
own	tail	leaf
they	said	leaf
thought	cheerfully	chameleon
leaf	chameleon	chameleon

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Step by Step Lesson Plan

List of words in the book that match the instructional focus

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Step 3: Guided Word Work Practice

Interactive Exploration

- Divide students into groups of 3-4 (this works best with heterogeneous grouping).
- Give each group one of the prepared balloons.
- Round 1: Students throw the balloon to each other. When the balloon is caught, the student must say the sound of the first vowel digraph that they see. Play like this goes on for three minutes.
- Round 2: Students continue to throw the balloon to each other. When the balloon is caught, the student must say the sound of the first vowel digraph that they see, then call out a word that contains that digraph. Again, play goes on for three minutes.
- While students play, you may circulate through the room during this exercise in order to monitor and correct responses.
- Discuss which of the vowel combinations was the most difficult to find words for, which combinations were easy. For example, students might say that it was easy to think of lots of words for "ee" combination.

Step 4: Independent Word Work Practice

Practice Page

- Give each student a copy of **Vowel Buddies Word Work**.
- Read the directions with the class.
- Tell the students to complete the practice page.
- Monitor students while they work.

Step 5: Reconnect and Reflect on Word Work

Group Discussion

- Bring the students back together.
- Ask students to explain what they learned about words based on the work they completed.
- Invite students to turn and talk with a partner about their word work.
- Invite 2-3 students to share what they learned with the group.

Step 6: Extend Word Work (optional)

Extension Activity

- Ask students to be on the lookout for **vowel digraphs and diphthongs** in their own reading. Tell them to write their words on a sticky note and add them to the anchor chart (review the anchor chart notes with the class later in the day or before moving on to the next word work lesson).
- Alternatively, students can keep track of the words using the **Word Detective Worksheet**.

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Interactive Activities

Independent Practice Page

Extension Activity

Vowel Digraphs and Diphthongs found in A Color of His Own

Page Number	Word	Pattern
3	green	ee
6	gray	ay
7	their	od/oa
8	own	od/oa
9	they (d)	od/oa
10	they	od/oa
11	heather	od/oa
	they	od/oa
12	they	od/oa
	day	ay
	chameleon	od/oa
	tail	od/oa
	said	od/oa
	remain	ai
	leaf	ea
15	green	ee
	too	oo
	own	od/oa
16	thought	od/oa
	cheerfully	ee
	greenest	ee
	leaf	ea
17	chameleon	od/oa
	leaf	ea
	chameleon	od/oa

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Vowel Buddy Cards
Active Activity

ay
ea
ow

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Word Detective: Vowel Buddies
Extension Activity

Directions:
Be a word detective!
Be on the lookout for **vowel buddies** while you read. Write the word that you find along with the title of the book where you found the word, the page, and the sentence with the word or phrase.

Word	Book Title	Page	Sentence

Name: _____ Word Work Extension Activity | ©BookPagez.com

Vowel Buddies
Word Work Practice Page

Directions:
Read each sentence below. Next to it, write the word from the sentence that contains a vowel buddy pair. Write the vowel buddy pair. Last write that the vowel buddy makes. The first one has been done for you.

	Vowel Buddy Word	Vowel Buddy Pair	Sound
Elephants are gray.	gray	ay	a
They went to school today.			
Wear your seatbelt.			
It was hot yesterday.			
The dog pants and wags its tail.			
The leaf was green.			
Our teacher was late.			
I am not afraid of the dark.			
My mom is proud of me.			
I have to stay for practice.			
I don't like to be left out.			

Name: _____ Independent Word Work Practice | ©BookPagez.com