

WORD WORK LESSON PLAN AND ACTIVITIES

Instructional Focus Based on the Words in the Book

Blueberries for Sal
By: Robert McCloskey
Grade Level: 2 / Guided Reading Level: M

Word Work

Instructional Focus:
One-Syllable Short A and Long A Words

Background:
In the English language, the letter **a** can make two different sounds and a **long a** sound. The **short a** sound does not say it makes the /ă/ sound, like in **cat**. The **long a** sound **does** say it like in **cake**.

When the letter **a** appears in the middle of a one-syllable word, it makes the **short a** sound, like in **can** and **back**.

Sometimes the letter **a** makes the **long a** sound. This can happen when the letter **a** is followed by a **silent e**, like in **take** and **came**. The **long a** sound also happens when the letter **a** is followed by a **silent e**, like in **take** and **came**. The **long a** sound also happens when the letter **a** is followed by a **silent e**, like in **take** and **came**. Remember, **one-syllable words are words that have one beat only once when you say the word**, like **dog**, **bat**, **toad**, etc.

Examples:

cat	can	take
rag	lap	day
at	am	main

Materials and Preparation:

- A copy of *Blueberries for Sal* by Robert McCloskey
- Whiteboard or chart paper
- Short A word cards (1 per pair of students; cut the cards)
- Long A Patterns die (1 per pair of students; cut and tape in advance)
- Recording Sheet (1 per pair of students)
- One-Syllable Short A and Long A Words Practice Paper
- Answer Key for One-Syllable Short A and Long A Words (1 copy for teacher reference)
- Optional: Word Detective Extension Worksheet (1 per pair of students)
- Optional: "Long A Short A 2 Corners" to extend engagement

Word Work at a Glance

Blueberries for Sal
By: Robert McCloskey
Grade Level: 2 / Guided Reading Level: M

Word Work

Step 2: Connect Word Work to Reading (continued)

One-Syllable Short A and Long A Words in the Text

- Tell students that you will read the book once from beginning to end. Tell students it is their job to look and listen for words with the One-Syllable Short A and Long A Words.
- Remind students to be polite and not interrupt.
- Read *Blueberries for Sal*.

Examples of One-syllable Short A and Long A Words found in the text:

day	can	back	way
sal	ate	sat	catch
pull	as	came	make
and	a	fat	fast
take	had	that	taste

Step 3: Guided Word Work Practice

Interactive Exploration

- Divide students into pairs.
- Provide each pair with a set of Short A word cards (cut the cards in advance), a Long A Patterns die (cut, fold, and tape in advance), and a recording sheet.
- Show students how to flip over a Short A card and read the word (e.g., "mad").
- Show students how to then roll the Long A Patterns die. It will land on one of three options (a, e, oi, ay). Students must apply the Long A pattern that was rolled to their Short A word card to make a new Long A word (e.g., if they rolled a, e or an oi, they can turn "mad" into "made" or "maid").
- If students roll **ay**, then they have the option of discarding the card; they can **remove the final consonant of their short A word**, to add the ay spelling pattern (e.g., in "mad," they can remove the "d" and make the word Long A word "may").
- Show students how to record their Short A and Long A words on the recording sheet. **If they cannot make a Long A word, or they roll a long A pattern that would create a duplicate Long A word on their recording sheet, then they must roll one more time in an attempt to get a Long A pattern that will work with their Short A word. If they cannot roll a pattern that will help them make a Long A word, they move the Short A card to a discard pile and flip to the next card.**
- Explain that this activity works best if you talk with your partner and say each Short and Long A word out loud.

Word Work Lesson Plan | ©BookPagez.com

List of words in the book that match the instructional focus

Step by Step Lesson Plan

One-Syllable Short A and Long A Words

Name: _____

Directions: Circle the words with the long "a" sound spelled with a, e, oi, and ay in each sentence. Underline the words with the short "a" sound in each sentence.

- Sal ate cake on a sunny day.
- The black cat ran back to the gate.
- I can take my pull to the lake.
- Dad had a plan to play a game.
- The gray snail sat on a flat rock.
- We may make jam and pack it in a can.
- A brave cat ran past the hay bale.
- The man can wait all day by the sand.

Draw and Color

Directions: Pick one of the sentences above and draw a picture of it below. Then, color only the parts of the picture that have short A and long A sounds. Color all of the short A objects the same color, and color all of the long A objects the same color.

Independent Word Work Practice | ©BookPagez.com

Short A and Long A Words Recording Sheet

Name: _____ Partner: _____

Short A Word	Pattern (circle)	New Long A Word
	a, e	ai, ay

Short A Word Cards

plan	man
pal	pan
at	nap
n	gran

Guided Word Work Practice | ©BookPagez.com

Independent Practice Page and Answer Key

Interactive Activity with Answer Key

Long A Short A 2 Corners
Extend Engagement Activity

Directions:

- Have students stand at their desks.
- Label each corner of the room as Long 1, Long 2, Short 1, and Short 2.
- Explain that you will read a series of words with Long A and Short A sounds.
- Remind students that they have been focusing on 1-syllable words with the long or short A sound. Now they will have to listen to both 1- and 2-syllable words with the long or short A sound.
- Once you have finished reading a word, students should move to the corner of the room that has the matching number of syllables and the matching A sound (e.g., snake...1 syllable and long A...go to corner Long 1, cactus...2 syllables and short A...go to corner Short 2).
- Once all students have moved to a corner, discuss the correct answer with the group.
- Have students reset at their desks at the end of each round.

Long 1 (long A, 1-syllable)	Long 2 (long A, 2-syllable)	Short 1 (short A, 1-syllable)	Short 2 (short A, 2-syllable)
cake	paper	cat	basket
train	rainbow	jam	cactus
say	mailbox	bad	rabbit
gate	baby	clap	jacket
grade	playground	stamp	ladder

Teacher Directions | ©BookPagez.com

Optional Activity to Extend Engagement

Word Detective: One-Syllable Short A and Long A Words
Extension Activity

Directions:
Be a word detective!
Be on the lookout for **one-syllable short a and long a words** 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

Extension Activity