

# Word Work Lesson Plan and Activities

Instructional Focus Based on the Words in the Book

**Word Work**  
By: Marjorie Weinman Sharmat  
Grade Level: 2 / Guided Reading Level: K

**Instructional Focus:**  
R Controlled Vowels (Bossy R)

**Background:**  
When the letter "r" follows a vowel, it controls the sound that the vowel makes. This rule is sometimes referred to as "Bossy R". When r is paired with e, i and u,

a	e
car	her
farm	fern
alarm	river
charm	river

- Materials and Preparation:**
- A Copy of *Nate the Great*
  - Chart Paper
  - Sorting Cards (1 set per group)
  - Go Fish Directions
  - Bossy R Word Work Page
  - Optional- Word Detective Worksheet- Index Cards
  - Step 2)

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**Step 1: Introduce the Focus of Word Work**

**Introduce R Controlled Vowels (Bossy R)**

- Draw the students' attention to the chart paper.
- Explain that when the letter "r" follows a vowel, it controls the way the vowel sounds.
- Review the vowels.
- Write the word "farm" in the column labeled with the letter a on the chart paper. You may wish to write the "a" in a different colored marker (refer to the sample anchor chart). Stress the "ar" sound.
- Provide students with additional examples writing fern, bird, corn, and burn in the appropriate column.
- Discuss that when r is paired with a, it says "ar." When r is paired with e, i and u, it says "er." When r is paired with o, it says "or."
- Ask the students to think of other words that follow the pattern. Allow students to turn and talk with a partner about the words they came up with or share with the class. Add new words to the anchor chart.

**Step 2: Connect Word Work to Reading**

**R Controlled Vowels (Bossy R) in the Text**

- Tell the students that the book they are reading today has a lot of Bossy R words.
- Show them **page 9** of *Nate the Great*. Tell the students to listen carefully and look at the words while you read. Ask the students to put a thumb up when they see or hear a word that follows the pattern.
- After reading, ask the students to identify the Bossy R words (**pearls, dollars, picture, course**). Add the words to the chart paper.
- Tell the students that you are going to read the book once from beginning to end. Tell them to be listening for words that follow the pattern. Remind them to be polite and not to interrupt you while you read.
- Read *Nate the Great*.

**Examples of R Controlled Vowels (Bossy R) Words in the Text:**

- pearls
- dollars
- picture
- course
- shoppers
- over
- girls
- yesterday
- door
- sure
- comfortable
- yard
- hours
- mother
- covered
- around

The dog played in the yard

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Step by Step Lesson Plan

List of words in the book that match the instructional focus

Optional Activity to Extend Engagement

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**Step 3: Guided Word Work Practice**

**Interactive Exploration**

- Provide each student with a set of sorting cards (allow students to cut apart the cards or provide them with pre-cut cards).
- Review the words.
- Model how to play **Go Fish**.
- Divide students into pairs and allow them to play **Go Fish** (refer to attached resources for directions).
- Monitor students and assess students' understanding while playing.

**Step 4: Independent Word Work Practice**

**Practice Page**

- Give each student a copy of **Bossy R 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 **bossy r words** in their own reading. Tell them to write their words on a sticky note and add them to the anchor chart (review the added sticky notes with the class).
- Alternatively, students can keep track of the words using the **Word Detective worksheet**.

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Interactive Activities

Independent Practice Page

**Go Fish Student Directions**

**Materials:**  
Sorting Cards

**Players:**  
2

**Directions:**

- Write your name or initials on each of your sorting cards.
- Combine all of the players sorting cards to make one deck of cards.
- Place the combined deck of cards **face down** in the middle, between both players. This pile is called the deal pile.
- Player 1 takes a card** from the deal pile. Next, **Player 2 takes a card** from the deal pile. The players **take turns taking cards** from the deal pile until each has 5 cards.
- Begin playing. **Player 1** looks at their cards and chooses one card. Player 1 says, "Do you have \_\_\_\_\_?"
- Player 2** checks each of their 5 cards. If **Player 2** has the match to the card wanted by **Player 1**, they hand over the match. If not, they say "Go Fish!"
- If **Player 1** gets a match, he or she places the matching cards face up on the table and takes another turn. If told to "Go Fish," **Player 1** draws from the pile. If there is a match, he places the matching cards face down and takes another card. If the player does not draw a match, he keeps the card in his hand and **Player 2** takes a turn.
- The object of the game is to "go out" by laying down all your cards in matching pairs. The first player to "go out" wins.

**Deal Pile**  
Each player takes 5 cards from the pile.

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Extension Activity

**Word Detective: R Controlled Vowels (Bossy R)**  
Extension Activity

**Directions:**  
Be a word detective!

Be on the lookout for **r controlled vowels (bossy r)** 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

**Bossy R Word Work Practice Page**

**Directions:**  
Unscramble the words to form the words in the word bank. The first one has been done for you.

**Word Bank**

pearls	yard	sure	part	hours	picture
mother	course	girls	dollars	work	door

- use sure
- ehrvot \_\_\_\_\_
- scuroee \_\_\_\_\_
- kwro \_\_\_\_\_
- olaids \_\_\_\_\_
- odho \_\_\_\_\_
- lpra \_\_\_\_\_
- sigri \_\_\_\_\_
- eprast \_\_\_\_\_
- dary \_\_\_\_\_
- hrsou \_\_\_\_\_
- lprectu \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Independent Word Work Practice | @BookPagez.com