

Word Work Lesson Plan and Activities

Instructional Focus Based on the Words in the Book

Word Work
By: Patricia Polacco
Grade Level: 4 / Guided Reading Level: 5

Instructional Focus:
Ambiguous Vowels (oy, oi, ou, ow)

Background:
Words with ambiguous vowels (oy, oi, ou, ow) are words in which a vowel sound is represented by a variety of different spelling patterns. The vowel patterns represent a wide range of sounds.

Examples:

ahoy	do
broil	fr
brown	furk
cough	fur
cower	ou

Materials and Preparation:

- A Copy of *Pink and Say*
- Chart Paper
- Ambiguous Vowels Bat
- Ambiguous Vowels Bat
- Ambiguous Vowels Word Detect
- Optional - Word Detect
- Optional - I Have...Who Has...

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Step 1: Introduce the Focus of Word Work

Introduce Ambiguous Vowels

- Explain that some words contain ambiguous vowels, which are letter combinations that sound different from the short and long vowel sounds. Today we will be focusing on words with ambiguous vowels, including oy, oi, ou, and ow. When words contain these letters together, they make a different sound.
- Give an example of a short o word, like hop. Give an example of a long o word, like bone.
- Ask children to look at the chart paper. Write the ambiguous vowel pairs: oy, oi, ou, ow on the chart paper.
- Ask children if they can identify any words that include any of the vowel combinations.
- Write the words below the vowels as children say them. Encourage the class to repeat the words together. Examples: toy, annoy, point, hoist, shout, pout, town, own.

Step 2: Connect Word Work to Reading

Ambiguous Vowels in the Text

- Tell the students that the book they will be reading today has many words with ambiguous vowels (oy, oi, ou, ow).
- Show them page 1 of *Pink and Say*. Ask students to listen carefully and look at the words while you read. If they hear a word with an ambiguous vowel, ask them to raise their hand.
- After reading page 1, ask the students to identify the words with ambiguous vowels they heard. Add them to the chart paper (model, coin, boy, fountain, mount, tower, bow).
- Tell the students that you are going to read the book once from beginning to end. Tell them to be listening for words with ambiguous vowel pairs. Remind them to be polite and not to interrupt you while you read.
- Read *Pink and Say*.

Examples of Ambiguous Vowels Found in the Text:

oil	oil	point	owned
powder	height	width	own
wool	board	row	yellow
tooth	through	grove	about
house	row	ankle	couldn't
boy	ambigu	through	through
year	troubled	house	load
crowd	down	how	brought

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Step by Step Lesson Plan

Optional Activity to Extend Engagement

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 pairs.
- Distribute a copy of the **Ambiguous Vowels Battle directions, game cards and score sheet** to each pair of students.
- Ask the students to cut apart the word cards, stack them in a pile and place them face down in the center of the playing space.
- Explain that you will be playing a game called Ambiguous Vowel Battle.
- Review the directions together.
- Allow students to play.
- Monitor students as they play.

Step 4: Independent Word Work Practice

Practice Page

- Give each student a copy of **Ambiguous Vowels Word Work Practice Page**.
- 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 **ambiguous vowels** 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 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 Ambiguous Vowels Extension worksheet**.

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Interactive Activities

Independent Practice Page

Ambiguous Vowel Battle!
Interactive Activity

our	cow	house
touch	troubled	about
brow	brought	couldn't
touched	through	
wounded	without	ground
fought	course	mouth
our	powder	powerful
thrown	coward	owned

Directions: Cut out the word cards on the dotted lines.

Guided Word Work Practice | @BookPagez.com

Extension Activity

Word Detective: Ambiguous Vowels
Extension Activity

Directions: Be a word detective! Be on the lookout for **ambiguous vowels (oy, oi, ou, ow)** 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

Ambiguous Vowels
Word Work Practice Page

Directions: Read the clue. Circle the correctly spelled word to solve the clue. Write the word on the line.

- Not minute but _____ hoyr hour hair howr
- Not up but _____ doin doyn down down
- Not an ounce but a _____ pownd pound paynd poind
- You use your hands to _____ tech touch toich towch
- Not a girl but a _____ boi bou bowy boy
- Not me but _____ yoi you yoo yow
- Not quiet but _____ lowd loid loud loyd
- Not in the sky but on the _____ grownd ground ground graynd
- You speak with your _____ moyth mouth mouth moith
- Not lost but _____ found foind fownd foyned

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