

Information for Teachers

Long Vowel Series

Aims of the Long Vowel Series

The main aim of this series of books is to introduce the 16 graphemes/spellings of the long-vowel sounds specified in the National Primary Strategy for Key Stage 1. These are:

- ai/ay/a-e
- ee/ea
- ie/y/i-e/igh
- oa/ow/o-e
- oo/ue/ew/u-e

Each spelling of each digraph is introduced separately in its own dedicated story.

The objective for each book is to introduce enough words using the specific digraph/grapheme/spelling to make sure the grapheme-phoneme correspondence is remembered.

The second aim of the series is to use only graphemes that the children have previously been taught, thus making the books fully decodable if they are used in the numerical order of the series.

The use of the vowel digraphs in each story is cumulative, so the later books use digraphs taught earlier in the series.

There is a list of the words being taught using specific digraphs on page 11 of each book. Books in the 2008 print run give an analysis of words containing vowel digraphs on page 12 of each title.

The grapheme 'ay' has been introduced first because of its use in 'play, day, away' and also the names of the days of the week, which children see regularly.

This is followed by the grapheme 'ee' because of its use in the words 'see, bee, sleep, cheep,' already used in previous series.

Titles and graphemes in each book

Book no.	Title	Grapheme/spelling
1	<i>The Hen on the Hay</i>	ay
2	<i>The Steep Hill</i>	ee
3	<i>The Goose</i>	oo
4	<i>Bean Dreams</i>	ea
5	<i>Rain</i>	ai
6	<i>Fun in the Boat</i>	oa
7	<i>The Cave</i>	a-e
8	<i>Hide and Seek</i>	i-e
9	<i>The Bone</i>	o-e
10	<i>The Willow Tree</i>	ow
11	<i>I Can't Fly</i>	y
12	<i>The Big Fish Pie</i>	ie
13	<i>A Clue to Bean</i>	ue
14	<i>The Blue Jewel</i>	ew
15	<i>Night</i>	igh
16	<i>The Long Blue Tube</i>	u-e

Vowel digraphs

The specific vowel digraphs used in each story are listed below.

Book 1

ay: day play away May hay says stay

Others: see

Book 2

ee: see steep green need screech geese speeding
sheep three tree indeed between feet screeching

Others: day play look soon

Book 3

oo: soon cool boo shoo snooze gloomy balloon oops
goose scoop zoomed rooster swooped cock-a-doodle-doo

Others: day play Bean

Book 4

ea: Bean dream eat cream real leaf stealing screamed
feast heap peaches treat

Others: day asleep peeping three green beans leaf soon

Book 5

ai: rain raindrops waiting afraid tail rainbow waited

Others: deep reached roof soon

Book 6

oa: soaked boat floating floated groaned goat toad croak
oak

Others: playing away tree

Book 7

a-e: lane gate takes game makes shade cave late
wakes shakes snake brave safe

Others: day play says afraid creep sees sleep feels been cool
too soon

Book 8

i-e: hide while five wide inside beehive dive time
like nine

Others: day play made seek trees three keeping bees beehive
sleep oak too

Book 9

o-e: hole stone joke bone rose woke alone

Others: away play came see asleep three leave bite

Book 10

ow: willow crow snow hollow below grow yellow blown
grown

Others: play away lays makes tree three see cheeky leave
like alone food baby again Bean find fly by

Book 11

y: by fly sky cry flying try why lying

Others: playing came take see trees teach like grow too
whoosh

Book 12

ie: pie die magpie flies cries spies lies tries

Others: pain save treat eat feels sleep sees tree bleed
beak bone throat too soon

Book 13

ue: blue clue true glue rescue

Others: tree seen feel peeped Bean seat oak follow hollow
days trail came inside by find

Book 14

ew: jewel flew blew chew shrew new dew

Others: day playing away lane came blades tree asleep beak
magpie like my burrow blue

Book 15

igh: night bright light high lightning frightened

Others: rain came away may stay asleep deeper please sky
woke

Book 16

u-e: June cute tube huge excuse used useful

Others: days way sprayed like growing roses holes chewing
blue too