

Word Work Lesson Plan and Activities

Instructional Focus Based on the Words in the Book

Word Work
By: William Steig
Grade Level: 4 / Guided Reading Level: 5

Instructional Focus:
The "ou" Letter Combination

Background:
When the letters "ou" are combined, they form the "ow" sound. This sound can be heard in words like "house".

Examples:

about	four
around	fountain
couch	ground
count	house
founced	mountain

Materials and Preparation:

- A Copy of *Brave Irene*
- Chart Paper
- Colored Markers
- Band-Aid
- A copy of the double-sided anchor chart
- A copy of "The 'ou' Letter Combination"
- Optional - Word Detective

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Step 1: Introduce the Focus of Word Work

Introduce The "ou" Letter Combination

- Tell the children that the "ou" letter combination makes different sounds. Sometimes, "ou" sounds like the "ow" we hear in "cow".
- Adhere a Band-Aid to the top of the chart paper. Write the word "ouch" under the Band-Aid. Say the word and underline the "ou" letter combination. Explain that the "ou" letter combination in the word "ouch" makes the "ow" sound. Ask the children to say the word with you. Repeat the steps with the following words: around, founced, grouch, house, mountain, out, pounced and tout. Ask children to share examples of words with the "ou" letter combination and add them to the anchor chart.

Sample Anchor Chart

"ou" Can Sound Like "ow"

Step 2: Connect Word Work to Reading

The "ou" Letter Combination in the Text

- Tell the children that you are going to try to trick them as you read *Brave Irene*.
- Explain that you will change the sounds with the "ou" letter combination as you read the story.
- Tell the children their job is to see if they can catch the switch. Share an example by saying the word "out" with the "ou" sound in the word "could", "The cat ran out the door".
- When they hear a word that does not sound right, they are to raise their hand and say the word with the correct "ou" sound.
- Read *Brave Irene*.

Examples of The "ou" Letter Combination Found in the Text:

- out
- outside
- about
- pounced
- house
- around
- mouth
- mountain

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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

- Provide each student with a copy of the 'ou' Can Sound Like 'ow' Guided Word Practice Page and the 'ou' Word List.
- Ask the children to use scissors to cut out the words from the word list.
- Children will choose words from their word list, say the word, and place the word in the column with the Band-Aid if the "ou" letter combination has the same sound as the word "ouch". All other words with the "ou" letter combination will go in the column with the garbage can.
- The children will continue until all of the words are placed on the guided word work practice page.
- Children can self-assess by looking at the image on the other side of the word.

Step 4: Independent Word Work Practice

Practice Page

- Give each student a copy of the 'ou' Letter Combination Practice Page.
- Read the instructions to the students.
- Review the rules when extracting a root word.
- Assist students as they need help.

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 for students to look words with 'ou' letter combination in their read. When they find words with 'ou' letter combination, write them on a sticky note with the root word under it. Add them to the anchor chart. As a class, sort them into "change" or "no change" groups.
- Alternatively, students can keep track of the words using the Word Detective worksheet.

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Interactive Activities

Independent Practice Page

Extension Activity

'ou' Can Sound Like 'ow'

"ou" Word List

sound	loud
about	mountain
founce	pounce
ought	trouble
mous	famous

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Word Detective: The "ou" Letter Combination
Extension Activity

Directions:
Be a word detective!
Be on the look out for the "ou" letter combination 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

The 'ou' Letter Combination
Word Work Practice Page

Directions: Circle the words with the "ou" vowel combination that make the "ow" sound heard in the word "house".

m r x u c a d e c n u a b l f k
v r t k b o s l v u c e n e f
r l s o e o a m v a z x i m r
e k u b j v z k j i l l o z q
v t w l j j g q e m h a z z m
b x l q s g r o x i t x a d o
m x m z m s u z p u r h d u
f f i h t c m t p k o q c d n
y e u n l u x s u u m h y z t
x n j z s n l i n c e k v s a
y a c b n t t d e c n u o p i
a r u h o u s e v h a o a c n

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