

Word Work Lesson Plan and Activities

Instructional Focus Based on the Words in the Book

Word Work
By: Ian Falconer
Grade Level: 2 / Guided Reading Level: J

Instructional Focus:
R Controlled (Bossy R) Vowels: e, i, and u

Background:
When the letter "r" follows a vowel, it controls the sound that the vowel makes. This rule is sometimes called the "Bossy R" rule. For example, in the word "her", the "e" says /er/.

Step by Step Lesson Plan

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Step 1: Introduce the Focus of Word Work

Introduce R Controlled (Bossy R) Vowels: E, I, and U

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

Step 2: Connect Word Work to Reading

R Controlled (Bossy R) Words in the Text

- Tell the students that the book they will be reading today has many words that contain the Bossy R sound, /er/.
- Show them page 7 of *Olivia*. Ask students to listen carefully and look at the words while you read. Ask the students to raise their hands if he or she hears one of the Bossy R (/er/) sounds.
- After reading page 7, ask the students to identify any words with the Bossy R (/er/) sound (e.g., her, mother, father, brother). Add the words to the anchor chart.
- 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 *Olivia*.

Examples of Bossy R Words Found in the Text:

- her
- mother
- dinner
- father
- brother
- picture
- summer
- firm

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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

- Explain to students that *Olivia* was placed in time out for painting on the wall. Now, they will play **Time Out!** by pairing up with another student.
- In advance, copy the **Interactive Exploration** page.
- Divide students into pairs. During the activity, give each student pair a copy of the **Time Out!** game board.
- Provide each student with a game piece and each student pair with a copy of the **Sorting Cards 1 and 2**. (Allow students to cut apart the cards or provide them with pre-cut cards).
- Explain that two letters are missing from their cards. They will have to determine if the missing letters can make Bossy R words with "er", "e", or "u".
- Model how to play **Time Out!** (Refer to resources for directions).
- Explain that the student whose name is first alphabetically, starts the game.
- Monitor students and assess students' understanding while playing.

Step 4: Independent Word Work Practice

Practice Page

- Give each student a copy of the **Bossy R: E, I, and U** 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 **R Controlled (Bossy R) Vowels: E, I, and U** 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** worksheet.

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Interactive Activity

Time Out!
Interactive Activity

Directions: Cut out the sorting cards below. Use the cards to play Time Out!

Sorting Cards Set #1

ch _ ch	c _ ve	f _ m	hw _ l
p _ ch	th _ ght	moth _	f _ n
sch _ l	g _ l	v _ se	p _ se

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Independent Practice Page

Bossy R: E, I, and U
Word Work Practice Page

Directions: Fill in the blanks with the correct Bossy R words.

Word Bank

mother picture dinner her stir
brother after summer firm father

- The _____ walked his daughter to school.
- Tommy drew a _____ in class.
- What are your plans for _____ vacation?
- My little _____ follows me around.
- What time will _____ be ready?
- Our principal speaks in a _____ tone.
- Brush your teeth _____ every meal.
- What is _____ last name?
- A lion cub learns to hunt by watching its _____.

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Extension Activity

Word Detective: (Bossy R) Vowels: e, i, and u
Extension Activity

Directions: Be a word detective! Be on the lookout for **R Controlled (Bossy R) Vowels: E, I, and U** 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

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