

# Word Work Lesson Plan and Activities

Instructional Focus Based on the Words in the Book

**Word Work**  
By: Eve Bunting  
Grade Level: 2 / Guided Reading Level: M

**Instructional Focus:**  
Contractions

**Background:**  
A contraction is a word formed by taking two words and blending them together. In the process, some letters are

**Examples:**

doesn't - does not
hadn't - had not
hasn't - has not
haven't - have not
he'd - he had; he would
he'll - he will

- Materials and Preparation:**
- Copy of One Candle
  - Fishing for Contractions
  - Contractions Word Work
  - Optional - Word Detective
  - Optional - 2 Colors of Ink

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

**Introduce Contractions**

- Explain that some short phrases can be shortened even more by removing some letters and replacing them with an apostrophe.
- Ask children to look at the chart paper and write the words "She is" at the top of the page. Say the words aloud and have students repeat the words with you. Then next to the words, write the contraction, "She's" and say it aloud. Ask students to repeat. Then say together, "She is, She's." Explain that you have removed the letter I and you have replaced it with an apostrophe.
- Then write the phrases, "He is" and ask children which two words form the contraction. When children give the correct answer, write, "He is" next to the contraction.
- Do the same with examples for "I will," "Would not," and "They have," so children have a variety of examples to illustrate contractions.

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

**Contractions in the Text**

- Tell the students that the book they will be reading today has many words with contractions.
- Show them page 1 of *One Candle*. Ask students to listen carefully and look at the words while you read. If they hear a word with a contraction, they should raise their hands.
- After reading page 1, ask the students to identify the contractions they heard. Add them 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 with contractions. Remind them to be polite and not to interrupt you while you read.
- Read *One Candle*.

**Examples of Contractions Found in the Text:**

• she's	• didn't
• there's	• we'd
• isn't	• wasn't
• you'd	• can't
• we've	• they'd
• it's	• couldn't
• I'd	• I've

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**

- Distribute *Fishing for Contractions*, one for each small group of 3-4.
- Ask the groups to work together to cut the words apart.
- Shuffle or mix the cards and deal 4 cards to each player. Place the remaining cards in the center to make a fish pond.
- Explain that you will be playing a game of matching the word pair with its correct contraction.
- Play *Fishing for Contractions* by following the rules of Go Fish. Player 1 must ask for the correct match for one of the cards in his or her hand. For example, if the player is holding the phrase "do not," he or she would choose any player and ask, "Do you have the contraction for 'do not' or 'don't'?" If that player has a match, he or she must give it to the asker. If the player does not have the match, he or she should say, "No, go fish." Player 1 must choose a card from the fishpond. If the card Player 1 draws is a match, he or she may go again. If not, Player 2 takes a turn.
- Play continues until a player matches all the cards in his or her hand. The player with the most matches wins.

**Step 4: Independent Word Work Practice**

**Practice Page**

- Give each student a copy of *Contractions 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 contractions 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: Contractions Extension Worksheet*.

Interactive Activities

**Fishing for Contractions Interactive Activity**

**Directions:**  
Cut on the lines to create game cards.

are not	aren't	he'll	he will
cannot	can't	he's	he is
didn't	did not	I'd	I had

Guided Word Work Practice | ©BookPagez.com

Independent Practice Page

Extension Activity

**Word Detective: Contractions Extension Activity**

**Directions:**  
Be a word detective!  
Be on the lookout for contractions 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

**Contractions Word Work Practice Page**

**Directions:**  
Read each sentence. Circle the contraction. Then write the words that from the contraction on the line.

1. She's Grandma's sister. \_\_\_\_\_
2. There's mom and dad and we three kids. \_\_\_\_\_
3. You'd cry too if you were her. \_\_\_\_\_
4. I love the holidays when we're together. \_\_\_\_\_
5. After we've eaten, Mom looks at Grandma. \_\_\_\_\_
6. "I think it's time, Mama." \_\_\_\_\_
7. We'd all asked that question. \_\_\_\_\_
8. The Germans didn't like a lot of people. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Grandpa wasn't in a camp. \_\_\_\_\_
10. I can't imagine going hungry. \_\_\_\_\_
11. What if they'd caught you? \_\_\_\_\_
12. They couldn't believe what I had done. \_\_\_\_\_
13. We ate the pieces I'd saved. \_\_\_\_\_
14. She lights the wick I've made from threads. \_\_\_\_\_
15. I don't know for sure. \_\_\_\_\_

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