

# Word Work Lesson Plan and Activities

Instructional Focus Based on the Words in the Book

**Word Work**  
By: Gail Tuchman  
Grade Level: 1 / Guided Reading Level: F

**Instructional Focus:**  
Short i and Short e Vowel Sounds

**Background:**  
When the letters i or e are found in the middle of a syllable, it usually has a short vowel sound.

**Examples:**

in	fin
lip	nip
sift	gift
pet	elf
yet	crest

**Materials and Preparation:**

- A Copy of **Safari** by Gail
- Markers
- Scissors
- Chart Paper
- Sticky Notes
- Vowel Safari Page (1 per student)
- Safari Animals Page (1 per student)
- Short Vowel Practice Page
- Optional - Extend Engagement
- Optional - Word Detective

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

**Sample Anchor Chart**

**Words with the Short i or e Vowel Sound**

When a vowel, like the letters i or e, is found in the middle of a syllable, the sound is usually short.

Short i	Short e
lip	left
ship	test
fin	pest

**Introduce Short i and Short e Vowel Sounds**

- Direct students' attention to the anchor chart.
- Read to students the sentence on the chart: "When a vowel, like the letters i or e, is found in the middle of a syllable, the sound is usually short."
- Explain that this means that many words are built by using a vowel, such as i or e, in the middle of the syllable. When this happens, the rule is that we say the short sound of the letter.
- On the chart, look at the examples "lip", "ship", and "fin" and "left", "test", and "pest" under each heading. Talk through each example and practice reading each word as a class, sounding out the individual phonemes. Circle the vowel in each word as you discuss to emphasize the way it is pronounced.
- Have students turn and talk to a partner and brainstorm more examples of words with the short i or short e vowel sounds. Write them on the chart as you discuss.

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

**Short i and Short e Vowel Sound in the Text**

- Explain to students that the book they are reading today will have several examples of words with the short i or short e vowel sounds.
- Pass out one sticky note to each student. Explain that they are going to listen as you read the book, and when they hear or see one of the words with this sound, they should write it on the sticky note (one example per student). Model listening for these words by reading **page 3** and having the students identify the words "hello" and "left" on this page as examples of the short e vowel sound. Discuss these words and add them to the chart.
- Continue reading **Safari** aloud to students.
- After reading the book, have students place their sticky notes on the chart under the correct heading. Discuss the examples they heard and saw.

**Examples of Instructional Focus in the Text:**

• hello	• let's	• will
• else	• giraffes	• hippos
		• elephants
		• animals

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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**

- Explain to students that they are going to practice what they've learned by playing a game called **Vowel Safari**.
- Divide students into pairs.
- Give each pair a **Vowel Safari** page and a set of **Short i and Short e Vowel Safari Animals**. Students should turn the safari animals upside down on their desk.
- Instruct students to take turns picking a safari animal from the pile and reading the short vowel sound word.
- Once they read the word correctly, they can place the animal on the **Safari Vowel** page under the correct vowel, i or e.

**Step 4: Independent Word Work Practice**

**Practice Page**

- Give each student a copy of the **Short i and Short e Vowel Sounds** practice page.
- Read the directions with the class.
- Tell students to complete the practice page.
- Monitor students as 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 **words with short i and short e vowel sounds** 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

**Safari Vowel Page**  
Interactive Activity

**Directions:** We are going on a vowel safari! Select a safari animal with a short vowel sound from the stack and sort it onto the correct side of this page.

Short i Sound	Short e Sound

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Independent Practice Page

**Short i and Short e Vowel Sounds**  
Word Work Practice Page

**Directions:** Circle the letter that makes the short vowel sound in each of these words.

- Chest
- Win
- Rest
- Whip
- Pet

**Directions:** Complete each of these words with the correct short vowel sound. Use the pictures as clues for each word.

p	n	
kn	t	
w	t	
ch	p	
r	st	

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

Extension Activity

**Word Detective: Short i and e Vowel Sounds**  
Extension Activity

**Directions:** Be a word detective!  
Be on the lookout for **words with short i and short e vowel sounds** 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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