

# Word Work Lesson Plan and Activities

Instructional Focus Based on the Words in the Book

**Word Work**

**The Story of Ruby Bridges**  
By: Robert Coles  
Grade Level: 3 / Guided Reading Level: O

**Instructional Focus:**  
Soft and hard /g/ (/dge/ /ge/ /gi/)

**Background:**  
G has two sounds, hard g and soft g. Soft g can be written in a few different ways (/dge/, /ge/, and /gi/).

**Examples:**

Hard g /g/	Soft g /g/
girl	ridge
gift	fridge
game	badger
gate	smudge

**Materials and Preparation:**

- A Copy of The Story of Ruby Bridges
- Chart paper
- Slicky notes
- Soft /g/ Search Worksheet
- Which Soft /g/ Is It? Practice Page
- Extension Activity (1 per student)
- Optional - Word Detective

**Word Work**

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

**Sample Anchor Chart**

One Word = One Sound = A Compound Word

bag = bag	badger = bad + ger
door = door	doorbell = door + bell
meal = meal	mealtime = meal + time

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

**Extend Engagement**

- Write the scrambled words on the board.
- Hand out a sticky note and ask students to write the words, unscrambled on the note.

1) bagg  
2) rgma  
3) dggg

Answers:  
1) cage  
2) magic  
3) fudge

**Introduce Soft and Hard /g/**

- Write the words "girl", "ridge", "gem", and "giraffe" horizontally across the chart paper.
- Read the words to the students and ask them what sounds and/or letters do they have in common and what is different.
- Explain that /g/ has a hard and soft sound.
  - Girl has a hard /g/ sound.
  - Ridge, gem, and giraffe have a soft /g/ that sound like /j/, but are spelled differently.
- Underline the letters that spell the hard and soft /g/.
  - Girl
  - Ridge
  - Gem
  - Giraffe
- Ask the students to help add words to these lists.

**Soft and Hard /g/ in the Text**

- Explain that in the book, *The Story of Ruby Bridges*, the author uses many words with the soft /g/ sound.
- Read page 2 and ask students if they heard words with the soft /g/ sound.
- Add the words to the chart.
  - Change and generals
- Explain that you will read the rest of the book aloud and for students to raise their hand when they hear a word with the soft /g/ sound.
- At the end of each page, you will call on students to share the words they found and add them to the chart.

**Examples of Soft and Hard /g/ Found in the Text:**

- Bridges
- Judge
- Budge
- Change
- Generals
- Courage
- Large

Step by Step Lesson Plan

Optional Activity to Extend Engagement

List of words in the book that match the instructional focus

**Word Work**

**The Story of Ruby Bridges**  
By: Robert Coles  
Grade Level: 3 / Guided Reading Level: O

**Step 3: Guided Word Work Practice**

**Interactive Exploration**

- Pass out the **Soft /g/ Search worksheet**.
- Read the directions with the students.
- Read the first sentence and ask students to underline the soft /g/ spelling patterns in the words.
  - Bridges
- Invite students to complete the worksheet on their own while you monitor.

**Step 4: Independent Word Work Practice**

**Practice Page**

- Pass out the **Which Soft /g/ Is It?** practice page to each student.
- Read the instructions and ask students to complete the page on their own.
- Circulate to monitor students.

**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 for **soft and hard /g/** in their 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**.

Word Work Lesson Plan | ©BookPages.com

Interactive Activity

Independent Practice Page

**Soft /g/ Search Worksheet**

**Directions:**  
Read the passage. Then underline the words that contain a soft /g/ sound.

Ruby Bridges is known in history to be one of the first black girls to go to an all white school in New Orleans. A judge chose her and three other girls to go to white schools. This was a big change for schools in 1960. It took a lot of courage for Ruby to do that.

A large group of white people did not want Ruby at the school so they protested, but Ruby did not budge. A marshal had to manage the crowd to keep Ruby safe. Instead of becoming angry, Ruby did something surprising. She prayed for the angry white people even though they were not treating her fairly.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Guided Word Work Practice | ©BookPages.com

Extension Activity

**Word Detective: Soft and Hard /g/ Extension Activity**

**Directions:**  
Be a word detective! Be on the lookout for **soft and hard /g/** 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 | ©BookPages.com

**Which Soft /g/ Is It?**  
Word Work Practice Page

**Directions:**  
Read each sentence. Then circle the word with the correct soft /g/ spelling. Write the word on the blank line in the sentence.

- He was so smart, he was a \_\_\_\_\_ (genius, ginious).
- The story was so sad that it was \_\_\_\_\_ (trudge, tragic).
- The train had to go over the \_\_\_\_\_ (bridge, brige) to cross the river.
- She had to \_\_\_\_\_ (nuge, nudge) the dog to get it to go outside.
- The elephant at the zoo was a \_\_\_\_\_ (geant, giant).
- Cover your mouth when you cough so you don't spread \_\_\_\_\_ (girms, germs).
- \_\_\_\_\_ (pigeons, pidgeons) are birds commonly found in big cities.
- It's nice to \_\_\_\_\_ (apologize, apolodgize) when you hurt someone's feelings.
- Many children like to play \_\_\_\_\_ (doge, dodge) ball at recess.
- When you don't forgive someone, then you are holding a \_\_\_\_\_ (grudge, grupe).

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