

B is for Bear

Assignment 11

Although we reviewed the phonics work of the last months in class on Friday, to prepare for this week's review lesson you may write words illustrating the vowels and letter combinations learned in the last ten weeks, including

- the short and long vowels
- ow (how), ea (pea), ou (couch), ew (chew)
- oi (coin), ai (sail), ee (green), y (sky)
- ar (car), or (fort), aw (paw), oa (boat)
- igh (light), ir (girl), ay (hay), oo (book)
- ow (snow), al (tall), oy (boy), ind (kind), le (little)
- soft c (mice), old (told), ea (breath), ough (bought)
- oo (boot), mb (lamb), kn (knife)
- wr (wrist)
- Complete Lesson 11 in your B is for Bear textbook, volume 1.
- Complete Lesson 11 of your handwriting book.
- Memorize the first stanza of Robert Frost's poem "Gathering Leaves," found in the appendix. Parents might review the following that we went over in class:
 1. Define the word *spade* (a kind of shovel used in gardening).



Jean de La Fontaine

2. This poem is apt for mid to late autumn in temperate climates when most of the leaves of the trees lie brown on the ground. Parents should explain to their children that this poem takes a humorous look at what seems an insurmountable task—raking and bagging leaves. Anyone who has ever raked leaves, gathered them into piles, and shoveled them into bags knows how inefficient the process can be. Spades indeed seem like spoons, and the largest bag is not big enough to contain a fraction of what is needed to get the job done.
 3. Parents may point out the poetic device of *hyperbole*, or exaggeration in the stanza. (We went over this device in class.) Spades are more efficient at shoveling leaves than spoons and leaf bags are not as light as balloons; however, through the use of hyperbole the speaker of the poem is emphasizing the laborious and inefficient means of “gathering leaves.”
 4. The first stanza contains both perfect and imperfect end rhyme. The word leaves occurs at the end of both lines 1 and 3. The repeated words are not perfect but imperfect rhymes. More specifically, they are called identity, as they are identical in sound. The words spoons and balloons, however, form a perfect rhyme. Perfect rhyme occurs 1) when the stressed vowels are the same, 2) the sounds after the stressed vowels are the same and 3) the sounds before the stressed vowel are different.
- Students should write out Dictation 11, found at the bottom of the online assignment page, in their dictation books. Parents should be writing misspelled words down on the dictation page and going over it. Students should bring their dictation textbooks every week to class for me to review.
 - Here is a book recommendation:
Margaret Hodges. Trina Schart Hyman, illustrator. *Saint George and the Dragon*. 1984. Reprint. Perfection Learning, 1990. A richly illustrated and accessible adaptation of Edmund Spenser’s *Faerie Queene*.