

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class / Grade: _____ Score: _____

LESSON 5.

Original Page 8

Long a (ā)

The **long sound of a** says its name (/eɪ/) as in *lace*, *way*, *face*, marked with a macron: ā.

Short a (ă)

The **short sound of a** makes /æ/ as in *hat*, *and*, marked with a breve: ă.

1. Copy the following carefully.
2. Put the proper mark over each **a** that has the long sound.

SELECTION 1

Between the curtains of snowy lace,
Over the way is a baby's face.

— ELLA WHEELER WILCOX.

SELECTION 2

And through the wood and up the glade,
We'll go in sunshine and in shade.

— Wheeler's Verse Selection

1. Copy the following carefully.

Directions: Transcribe both poetic passages onto the penmanship guidelines below. Write neatly with correct margins, capitalization, apostrophe, and punctuation.

Selection 1 (Ella Wheeler Wilcox):

Selection 2:

2. Put the proper mark over each **a** that has the long sound.

Directions: Read the selections aloud. Place the macron (¯) straight above every letter **a** that makes the long sound (/eɪ/). Do not mark short **a** or neutral sounds.

Between the curtains of snowy lace,
Over the way is a baby's face.

— ELLA WHEELER WILCOX

And through the wood and up the glade,
We'll go in sunshine and in shade.

— Traditional Poetic Selection

LESSON 5: Poetry & Long a (ā) Study — Master Answer Key

Comprehensive Orthographic, Syllable & Literary Guide

Task 2: Long Sound Mark Locations (The Macron: ā)

Official Solution

Students must place the macron symbol (ā) directly above the letter **a** in exactly **6 target words** across the two selections:

Selection 1 (4 words):

- l ā ce (/leɪs/) — split digraph a_e with soft c
- w ā y (/weɪ/) — vowel digraph -ay in word-final position
- b ā by's (/ˈbeɪ.bi/) — open first syllable ba- ending in a
- f ā ce (/feɪs/) — split digraph a_e with soft c

Selection 2 (2 words):

- gl ā de (/gleɪd/) — split digraph a_e (an open forest space)
- sh ā de (/ʃeɪd/) — digraph sh + split digraph a_e

Note: The rhyme pair glade / shade reinforces the phonogram -ade.

Distractor & Contrast Analysis (Letters 'a' NOT Marked)

Error Prevention

curtains

Vowel team 'ai' is in an unstressed syllable (/ˈkɜːr.tənz/). It reduces to a schwa /ə/ or weak /ɪ/, **never** long a.

a (article)

The indefinite article preceding 'baby's' is pronounced as a neutral schwa (/ə/). It is unstressed and **not** marked.

And / and / and

Contains the **short sound ă** (/æ/) in closed syllables. Must **NOT** be marked with a macron.

SCIENCE OF READING: THREE ORTHOGRAPHIC VEHICLES FOR LONG A (/Eɪ/)

- 1. Split Digraph (VCE Pattern — lace, face, glade, shade):** Silent final -e prevents the coda consonant from closing the vowel, signaling that 'a' retains its long alphabet name (/eɪ/). Also triggers the soft sound of 'c' (/s/) in lace and face.
- 2. Word-Final Vowel Team (-ay in way):** English words do not typically end in the letter 'i' (orthographic constraint); therefore, the /eɪ/ phoneme at the end of a base word is systematically spelled with 'ay'.
- 3. Open Syllable Phonics (ba-by's):** In multi-syllabic words divided before a consonant (ba / by), the open vowel in the stressed initial syllable produces the long sound without needing a silent -e.

LITERARY & BIOGRAPHICAL CONTEXT FOR TEACHERS

- Ella Wheeler Wilcox (1850–1919):** Prominent American author and poet, internationally renowned for her celebrated poem *Solitude* ("Laugh, and the world laughs with you; Weep, and you weep alone"). This charming couplet frames domestic serenity through lace curtains against snowy winter.
- Poetic Devices & Vocabulary:** Selection 2 introduces nature vocabulary (*glade* = an open clearing in a forest) and contrasts darkness and illumination (*sunshine and shade*) through an AABB heroic couplet meter.

Instructional Steps & Scoring Rubric

Scoring Guide

Activity	Instructional Standard	Scoring Points
1. Copy carefully	Faithful transcription of poetic lines, capitalization, author name, commas, and periods.	10 pts (Penmanship, alignment, punctuation).
2. Mark long a (ā)	Correctly placing the macron (ā) on lace, way, baby's, face, glade, shade.	6 pts (1 pt per correctly identified word).
Negative Accuracy	Avoids marking non-target vowels (and, curtains, a).	Deduct 1 pt per false positive.