

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

LESSON 8.

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Short e (ĕ)

The **short sound of e** makes /ĕ/ as in *met*, *nest*, *wet*, marked with a breve: ĕ.

Long e (ē)

The **long sound of e** says its name (/i:/) as in *me*, *each*, marked with a macron: ē.

1. Copy the following carefully.
2. Put the proper mark over each e that has the short sound.

SELECTION 1

The little bird within his nest
Has hid his little head to rest.

— ROWAN STEVENS.

SELECTION 2

Each flower the dews have lightly wet
And in the sky the stars are met.

— GEORGE GORDON, LORD BYRON.

1. Copy the following carefully.

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

Selection 1 (Rowan Stevens):

Selection 2 (George Gordon, Lord Byron):

2. Put the proper mark over each e that has the short sound.

Directions: Read the poetic selections aloud. Place the breve symbol (˘) directly above every letter e that makes the short sound (/ĕ/). Do not mark long sounds, vowel teams, or silent letters.

The little bird within his nest
Has hid his little head to rest.

— ROWAN STEVENS

Each flower the dews have lightly wet
And in the sky the stars are met.

— GEORGE GORDON, LORD BYRON

LESSON 8: Poetry & Short e (ĕ) Study — Master Answer Key

Comprehensive Orthographic, Syllable & Literary Guide

Task 2: Short Sound Mark Locations (The Breve: ĕ)

Official Solution

Students must place the breve symbol (˘) directly above the letter **e** representing the short sound (/ɛ/) in the target words:

Selection 1 (2 primary target words):

- n **ĕ** st (/nɛst/) — closed syllable -est family
- r **ĕ** st (/rɛst/) — closed syllable -est family
- Note on **head**: Pronounced /hɛd/ with vowel digraph 'ea'. If marked, the breve sits above 'e' (h **ĕ** ad).

Selection 2 (2 target words):

- w **ĕ** t (/wɛt/) — closed CVC syllable -et
 - m **ĕ** t (/mɛt/) — closed CVC syllable -et
- Reinforces the exact rhyming pairs: nest/rest (-est) and wet/met (-et).

Distractor & Contrast Analysis (Letters 'e' NOT Marked with Breve)

Error Prevention

The / the

Unstressed definite article pronounced as neutral schwa (/ðə/).

little & have

Silent final -e in consonant-le (little) and marker -e (have).

Each & dews

Each has long e (/i:/); dews has vowel team 'ew' (/ju:/ or /u:/).

flower & are

R-controlled vowels (/ər/ in flower; /a:r/ in are).

SCIENCE OF READING: PHONOLOGICAL PATTERNS OF SHORT E (/ɛ/)

- **Closed Syllable Phonogram Rimes (-est, -et):** Consonant codas (-st in nest, rest; -t in wet, met) firmly close the syllable, ensuring the vowel represents its short articulatory gesture (/ɛ/). This is the most consistent spelling pattern for primary decoders.
- **Acoustic & Articulatory Contrast:** The short *e* phoneme is a mid-front lax vowel. Contrasted with long *e* (/i:/ in Each), the tongue blade rests lower and the vocal tract muscles are relaxed, requiring sharp auditory discrimination from students.

LITERARY & BIOGRAPHICAL CONTEXT FOR TEACHERS

- **Rowan Stevens:** American late-19th-century author and poet who wrote gentle, rhythmic verse and maritime stories for children's periodicals (including *St. Nicholas Magazine*). Selection 1 presents a tender twilight scene of nature and security.
- **George Gordon, Lord Byron (1788–1824):** Major British Romantic poet and peer. This exquisite evening couplet depicts the nocturnal dew settling over blossoms as the celestial canopy ignites with starlight, demonstrating lyrical elegance and regular iambic tetrameter meter.

Instructional Steps & Scoring Rubric

Scoring Guide (20 pts)

Activity	Instructional Standard	Scoring Points
1. Copy carefully	Accurate transcription of both poetic passages, capitalization, punctuation, and author names.	12 pts (Penmanship, alignment, punctuation).
2. Mark short e (ĕ)	Accurately placing the breve (˘) over nest, rest, wet, met (and head).	8 pts (2 pts per correctly marked word).
Accuracy Deduction	Deduct points for falsely marking unstressed, silent, or long vowels (The, little, Each, dews).	-1 pt per false positive.