

★ LESSON 108: MEMORY LESSON • MARGARET E. SANGSTER

POETRY RECITATION • DIACRITIC *ī* • PENMANSHIP

1

Memory Study: Read the stanza carefully. Place the tilde (~) over each *i* with the sound of *sir* (/ɜːr/).

Textbook Page 60 • Autumn Lyric

► AUTUMN SONG

TEXTBOOK PAGE 60

“Oh, where are you going, my dear little **bird**?

And why do you hurry away?

Not a leaf on the pretty red maple has **stirred**.

In the sweet golden sunshine to-day.”

— MARGARET E. SANGSTER.

1. Acoustic Rhyme Pair:

• **bird** ↔ **stirred**

Both end in the r-colored phonogram sound /-ɜːrd/ (rhymes with *third*).

2. Vowel Team Rhyme Pair:

• **away** ↔ **to-day**

Both share the long *a* digraph phonogram -ay (/eɪ/).

3. Short “i” Contrast:

• **little** (/ˈlɪtəl/) and **In** (/ɪn/) have short *ī*, NOT the r-colored *ī* sound!

2

Orthographic Clinic: Master the spelling rules hidden within Sangster’s verse.

Spelling Rules in Context

► **stir** → **stirred**

1-1-1 Doubling Rule

Rule: The base verb *stir* has 1 syllable, 1 short vowel (*i*), and ends in 1 consonant (*r*). Double the *r* before vowel suffix -ed: **stir** → **stirred**.

► **sunshine** • **to-day**

Compound & Hyphen

Structure: *sun-shine* is a compound noun (*sun* + *shine*). In 1901 Victorian spellers, *to-day* was written with a hyphen to show the prepositional prefix *to-* + *day*.

3

Write from Memory: Recite Sangster’s stanza aloud, then write each line from memory in your best handwriting.

26px Standard Lines • 13px Midline

Line 1: “Oh, where are you going, my dear little bird?”

Place tilde over bird

Line 2: “And why do you hurry away?”

Notice question mark (?)

Line 3: “Not a leaf on the pretty red maple has stirred,”

Place tilde over stirred (double r)

Line 4: “In the sweet golden sunshine to-day.”

Hyphenated to-day

Lines 5–6: Socratic Reflection: Why is the little bird hurrying away if the sunshine is still golden?

Autumn Migration

1 Complete Lexical & Phonics Matrix (Sangster's Lyric Poem)

18 Analysis Words • Syllabication • Orthographic Structures

Word	Part of Speech / IPA	Syllables	Phonetic & Orthographic Notes
1. Oh	Interj. /oʊ/	Oh (1)	Open vowel sound expressing emotional apostrophe / address.
2. where	Adv. /weər/	where (1)	Digraph wh- with air-glide vowel.
3. are	Verb /ɑːr/	are (1)	Irregular present plural of be; r-controlled vowel.
4. you	Pron. /juː/	you (1)	Second person pronoun with digraph ou = /uː/.
5. going	Part. /ˈɡoʊ.ɪŋ/	go ·ing (2)	Open base go (/ɡoʊ/) + inflectional suffix -ing.
6. dear	Adj. /dɪər/	dear (1)	Vowel team ea expressing affection; r-controlled.
7. little	Adj. /ˈlɪtəl/	lit ·tle (2)	Doubled tt before consonant-le syllable (-tle).
8. bird	Noun /bɜːrd/	bird (1)	Target ī word: R-colored vowel /ɜːr/ + voiced /d/.
9. hurry	Verb /ˈhʌri/	hur ·ry (2)	Doubled rr protecting short ū; final y = /i/.
10. away	Adv. /əˈweɪ/	a ·way (2)	Unstressed prefix a- + base with vowel digraph -ay.
11. leaf	Noun /liːf/	leaf (1)	Vowel team ea representing long ē (/iː/).
12. pretty	Adj. /ˈprɪti/	pret ·ty (2)	Doubled tt dividing short ī and vowel suffix -y.
13. maple	Noun /ˈmeɪpəl/	ma ·ple (2)	Open accented syllable ma- + consonant-le (-ple).
14. stirred	Verb /stɜːrd/	stirred (1)	Target ī word: 1-1-1 rule doubles r before -ed.
15. sweet	Adj. /swiːt/	sweet (1)	Vowel team ee (/iː/) following blend sw-.
16. golden	Adj. /ˈɡouldən/	gold ·en (2)	Base noun gold + adjectival suffix -en (made of / like gold).
17. sunshine	Noun /ˈsʌnʃaɪn/	sun ·shine (2)	Compound: base sun + base shine (split digraph i_e).
18. to-day	Noun/Adv. /təˈdeɪ/	to ·day (2)	Prepositional prefix to- + noun day (digraph -ay).

2 Literary Background & Orthoepic Analysis: Margaret E. Sangster (1838–1912)

Harper's Bazaar Editor • Nature Lyricism

1. Author & Poetic Conception

- The Author:** Margaret Elizabeth Sangster was a prominent 19th-century American poet and editor of *Harper's Bazaar* (1889–1899). Her verse was celebrated for its tender lyric observation of the domestic and natural worlds.
- Thematic Conflict:** The child observer sees only the “sweet golden sunshine” and the red maple tree upon which “not a leaf has stirred,” wondering why the bird is in such haste. The bird, obeying seasonal instinct, departs before the impending frosts of winter.

2. Orthoepic Pairing: bird and stirred

- Acoustic Cadence:** Sangster uses the exact r-colored vowel /ɜːr/ to bind the first and third lines together (*bird* ↔ *stirred*).
- Spelling Discipline:** While *bird* is a simple base word, *stirred* tests the student's mastery of inflectional morphology: doubling the final *r* of *stir* before suffix -ed.

3 Standard Dictation Sentences (Administer Orally)

Strict Decodability • Memory Recitation Reinforcement

1. The gentle little **bird** paused upon the red maple bough before it flew **away**.

2. Not a single leaf on the tall tree **stirred** in the golden autumn sunshine **to-day**.

3. “Why do you **hurry away** when the sweet sunshine is still bright?” asked the **pretty girl**.

4. A sudden **whirl** of wind caused the dry **dirt** to fly across the lawn.

5. Write the four lines of Sangster's poem from **memory** with clean, upright handwriting.

4 Evaluative Scoring Rubric (20 Points Total) & Socratic Discussion

Standards-Based Mastery Assessment

Four-Domain Scoring Criteria:

1. Memory Recitation & Transcription (7 pts): Reproduces all 4 lines of Sangster's stanza verbatim without omissions or line transposition.

2. Diacritic Tilde Precision (5 pts): Correctly marks the tilde (̃) over the i in both *bird* and *stirred*.

3. Penmanship & Midline (4 pts): Letters sit firmly on baseline; lowercase tops reach the 13px dashed midline without collision.

4. Orthographic Conventions (4 pts): Capitalizes each poetic line; preserves punctuation (question marks, commas, period, hyphen in *to-day*).

Socratic Pedagogical Prompts:

- Seasonal Inquiry:** “Why is the little bird hurrying away if not a leaf has stirred and the sunshine is golden?” (The bird feels the approach of autumn and begins its southward migration).
- Orthographic Doubling:** “How do we spell the past tense of ‘stir’? Why does ‘stir’ double its final consonant while ‘chirp’ does not?” (1-1-1 rule: *stir* ends in single vowel + single consonant; *chirp* ends in two consonants).
- Hyphenation History:** “Why did Wheeler's speller print ‘to-day’ with a hyphen? How do we write it modernly?”