

STUDENT NAME: _____

DATE: _____

CLASS: _____

SCORE: _____

LESSON 111 • ROBERT BROWNING LYRIC & THE /ɜ:ɹ/ TRIFECTA

GĪRL • CŪRL • PĒARL = / ɜ:ɹ/

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Classic Literature • Robert Browning (*The Pied Piper of Hamelin*)

"See the little boys and girls, / With rosy cheeks and flaxen curls, / And sparkling eyes and teeth like pearls." — ROBERT BROWNING

Wheeler's Directive: Write the lines from dictation. Put the proper mark over i in gĭrl, u in cŭrl, and e in pĕarl. As these three words rhyme, observe that these three vowel sounds are nearly alike (/ɜ:ɹ/).

CONCEPT

1

Poetic Transcription & Penmanship Copywork

Transcribe Browning's famous tercet with pristine penmanship, capital initials, and proper commas on the guidelines:

2

The Orthoepic Trifecta • Vowel Spellings for /ɜ:ɹ/

Isolate the 3 rhyming words from Browning's poem. Write each word, mark the target vowel, and identify its vowel team:

gĭrl: Tilde ȓ (/ɜ:ɹ/)
Spelling: vowel 'ĭ' + r

cŭrl: Caret ū (/ɜ:ɹ/)
Spelling: vowel 'u' + r

pĕarl: Tilde &efilde;a (/ɜ:ɹ/)
Spelling: digraph 'ea' + r

3

Descriptive Adjective Study & Imagery Synthesis

Match Browning's vivid adjectives to the noun features they describe, then write a complete descriptive sentence:

1. rosy cheeks • flaxen curls • sparkling eyes • teeth like pearls

2. Compose an original sentence using at least two of these descriptive words:

WHEELER'S ORTHOEPIC RULES • THE /ɜ:ɹ/ TRIFECTA

1. 1. **Phonetic Equivalence:** In English, the sound /ɜ:ɹ/ is represented by three distinct vowel teams: ĭ in gĭrl, ū in cŭrl, and ea in pĕarl.

2. 2. **Suffix -en in Flaxen:** The adjective suffix -en means 'made of' or 'resembling': flax + en = flaxen (pale yellow like spun flax fiber).

3. 3. **Poetic Simile:** "Teeth like pearls" is a classic poetic simile; notice the silent a in pearl preserves historical French/Anglo-Norman spelling.

LESSON 111 TEACHER GUIDE & ANSWER KEY

LESSON 111 • TEACHER MASTER KEY

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TARGET WORD	DIACRITIC MARKING	VOWEL PATTERN & SOUND	ETYMOLOGY / HISTORY
girl	gīrl • /əɜ:rl/	Tilde ĩ + liquid r • /ɜ:r/	Middle English <i>gerle/girle</i> (child)
curl	cŭrl • /kɜ:rl/	Caret û + liquid r • /ɜ:r/	Middle English <i>crul</i> (curly) by metathesis
pearl	pēarl • /pɜ:rl/	Digraph + liquid r • /ɜ:r/	Old French <i>perle</i> • Latin <i>perna</i>
flaxen	flāx-ēn	Base <i>flax</i> + adjective suffix -en	Old English <i>fleax</i> (pale yellow fiber)

COMPLETE ANSWER KEY & SOLUTIONS

WHEELER'S EXERCISES

Exercise 1 (Transcription): Verbatim copy of Browning's 3-line tercet with accurate capitalization and commas.

Exercise 2 (The Trifecta):

- **gīrl:** vowel 'ī' + r.
- **cŭrl:** vowel 'u' + r.
- **pēarl:** digraph 'ea' + r.

All three rhyme perfectly in English: /-ɜ:rl/.

Exercise 3 (Imagery & Sentence):

Sample sentence: "The smiling little girl had bright rosy cheeks and golden flaxen curls."

Teaching Note: Emphasize that ears hear the same vowel sound (/ɜ:r/), but eyes must remember three distinct spellings.

SOCRATIC GUIDING PROMPTS & PEDAGOGICAL INSIGHTS

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

- Say 'girl', 'curl', and 'pearl'. Do they rhyme? Which letters make the vowel sound in each word?
- What does 'flaxen' mean when describing someone's hair?
- Why do we need silent 'a' in 'pearl'? What would it say if written 'perl'?

DICTATION & ORAL APPLICATION SENTENCES (READ SLOWLY AT NORMAL SPEAKING PACE):

1. The happy little girl ran across the lawn with her flaxen curls bouncing.
2. Her rosy cheeks and sparkling blue eyes shone with cheerful merriment.
3. Robert Browning wrote of children whose teeth were white like precious pearls.
4. See the little boys and girls gathered together for their evening games.