

STUDENT NAME: _____

DATE: _____

CLASS: _____

SCORE: _____

LESSON 156 • MEMORY LESSON: “CLOUDS” (BRAINARD & SCOTT)

BRAINARD • SCOTT • MEMORY LYRIC

Wheeler's Elementary Speller • Page 82

Classic Memory Gems • John G. C. Brainard (1796–1828) & Sir Walter Scott
“I cannot look above and see / The clouds with which the air is packed, / But I can see the majesty / Of that great falling cataract.” — John G. C. Brainard

Wheeler's Directive: Memorize and recite Brainard's sublime Niagara lyric. Observe the noble rhyming scheme (*see / majesty, packed / cataract*) and elevated descriptive vocabulary.

CONCEPT

1

Poetic Recitation Copywork • 26px Penmanship Track
Copy Brainard's poem neatly on the handwriting lines:
I cannot look above and see the clouds with which the air is packed, _____
But I can see the majesty of that great falling cataract. _____

2

Literary Vocabulary Studio • Etymology & Meaning
Copy the vocabulary words and match them to their definitions:
majesty → royal greatness and dignity cataract → a massive waterfall _____
packed → filled densely; crowded above → overhead in the sky _____

3

Original Composition • Meteorological Wonder
Write an original descriptive sentence about a waterfall or storm clouds:
Sentence: _____

WHEELER'S ORTHOEPIK RULES • POETIC METER & VOCABULARY

1. 1. **Iambic Tetrameter:** Brainard's stanza is composed in iambic tetrameter (four beats of unstressed followed by stressed syllables: da-DUM da-DUM da-DUM da-DUM).

2. 2. **Greek Etymology: Cataract:** cataract derives from Greek *katarraktēs* (swooping down; waterfall). Note the hard c at beginning and end.

3. 3. **The Suffix -y in Majesty:** *Majesty* comes from Latin *majestas* (greatness). The final y is unstressed and short (/i/).

LESSON 156 TEACHER GUIDE & ANSWER KEY

LITERATURE • POETRY • MEMORY RECITAL

Wheeler's Elementary Speller • Page 82

WORD	IPA	POETIC FUNCTION	TEACHING PRESCRIPTION
majesty	/ˈmædʒɪsti/	Noun	Latin <i>majestas</i> . Rhymes with see in elevated poetic license.
cataract	/ˈkætəɾækt/	Noun	Greek <i>katarraktēs</i> . Refers specifically to Niagara Falls.
packed	/pækt/	Verb (Past)	Short a + -ck; terminal -ed pronounced /t/.
falling	/ˈfɔːlɪŋ/	Participle	Broad a before ll + suffix -ing.

COMPLETE ANSWER KEY & SOLUTIONS

WHEELER'S EXERCISES

Exercise 2 Vocabulary Match:

- majesty*: supreme dignity and greatness.
- cataract*: a gigantic waterfall (Niagara).
- packed*: crowded or filled full.
- above*: overhead in the heavens.

Recitation Drill:

Niagara Falls was celebrated by American 19th-century poets as a symbol of divine power.

Encourage children to stand upright and recite with solemn expression.

SOCRATIC GUIDING PROMPTS & PEDAGOGICAL INSIGHTS

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

- What great natural wonder is called a 'cataract' in this poem?
- Look at the word 'packed'. What sound does the '-ed' ending make? (/t/)
- What rhyming words can you find in Brainard's four lines?

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

- I cannot look above and see the clouds with which the air is packed.
- The mighty cataract plunged with thunder into the deep gorge.
- The king sat in all his royal majesty upon the throne.
- Dark storm clouds gathered rapidly above the quiet lake.