

Part 1: Classical Literature • Robert Burns & Poetic Observation

LITERATURE • 26PX TRACKS

“Sing on, sweet thrush, upon the leafless **bough**.”

— ROBERT BURNS (1759–1796)

“*The lilies **bow** their heads.*”

- **thrush** (/θrʌʃ/): songbird singing in winter.
- **bough** (/baʊ/): large main branch of a tree.
- **bow** (/baʊ/): bending forward in reverence.

Wheeler Instruction 1: “Copy the following carefully, and find two words pronounced alike but spelled differently.”

Part 2: Orthoepic Analysis • Homophones & Heteronyms (/bau/ vs. /bou/)

PHONOLOGY • 26PX TRACKS

bough /baʊ/

n. a primary branch of a tree (OE *bōg*, silent *gh*).

bow /baʊ/

v./n. bend head; the forward prow of a boat (OE *būgan*).

bow /bou/

n. curved weapon for arrows; looped knot or ribbon (OE *boga*).

Part 3: Wheeler's Socratic Inquiry • Write Answers to These Questions

SOCRATIC • 26PX TRACKS

1. What are the branches of a tree called?

2. What is the front end of a boat called?

3. What do people do with their heads in church during a prayer?

4. In what two ways may *bow* be pronounced, and what does it mean when pronounced /bou/?

Part 4: Sentence Composition • Wheeler Instruction 2

SYNTAX • 26PX TRACKS

Wheeler directs: “Use these words in sentences of your own.” Compose three expressive sentences illustrating each distinct word/meaning:

1. Sentence with **bough** (/baʊ/ • tree branch):

2. Sentence with **bow** (/baʊ/ • bend or ship):

3. Sentence with **bow** (/bou/ • knot or weapon):

Section 1: Homophones, Heteronyms & Robert Burns' Lyric

ORTHOEPY • HETERONYMS

Homophones vs. Heteronyms (Homographs):

- **Homophones (Same Sound, Different Spelling):** *bough* (/bau/) and *bow* (/bau/). Both share the diphthong /au/, but *bough* preserves Germanic silent -gh (OE *bōg*, tree limb), whereas *bow* (bend) comes from OE *būgan*.
- **Heteronyms / Homographs (Same Spelling, Different Sound):** *bow* (/bau/ – bend/ship prow) vs. *bow* (/bou/ – archery weapon, ribbon knot, violin bow). Both are spelled <bow>, but represent distinct etymological roots (OE *būgan* vs. OE *boga*).

Robert Burns & Poetic Personification:

- **Robert Burns (1759–1796):** Scotland's national bard. This verse originates from his January 1793 poem *Sonnet on Hearing a Thrush Sing on a Morning Walk*. Burns personifies the resilient songbird chanting on a bare winter branch.
- **Lilies Bow Their Heads:** Wheeler pairs the bird on the *bough* with floral personification: flowers *bowing* their blossoms in the breeze or at dusk, anchoring the homophone in vivid nature imagery.

Section 2: Complete Word Analysis & Phonetic Key

IPA • ORTHOGRAPHY • ETYMOLOGY

Word	IPA	Part of Speech	Etymological Origin & Phonological Structure
bough	/bau/	Noun	Old English <i>bōg</i> / <i>bōh</i> (arm, shoulder, bough). Digraph -gh is silent; vowel is /au/.
bow (bend)	/bau/	Verb / Noun	Old English <i>būgan</i> (to bend, stoop). Digraph -ow represents diphthong /au/. Front of boat (prow).
bow (weapon)	/bou/	Noun	Old English <i>boga</i> (archery bow, rainbow). Digraph -ow represents long <i>ō</i> (/ou/). Looped knot / ribbon.
thrush	/θrʌʃ/	Noun	Old English <i>þrysce</i> . Digraph th- = /θ/; short <i>ū</i> ; digraph -sh = /ʃ/. Songbird.
leafless	/ˈliːfləs/	Adjective	Base <i>leaf</i> (digraph ea = /i:/) + privative suffix -less (destitute of leaves).
lilies	/ˈlɪliːz/	Noun (Plural)	Latin <i>lilium</i> . Base <i>lily</i> (consonant + y) changes y to i and adds -es (Lesson 158 rule).

Section 3: Master Oral Dictation Script, Socratic Inquiry & Evaluative Rubric

DICTIONATION • SOCRATIC • 20-PT RUBRIC

Oral Dictation Sentences:

1. "The sweet thrush sang upon an apple *bough*."
2. "The sailor stood upon the *bow* of the ship."
3. "The children *bow* their heads in humble prayer."
4. "Robin Hood drew his wooden *bow* and arrow."
5. "She tied her bonnet ribbons in a neat *bow*."
6. "In autumn, the *leafless* trees surrender their fruit."

Socratic Inquiry Key:

- **1. Branches of a tree:** "They are called **boughs** (spelled *b-o-u-g-h*, with silent -gh)."
- **2. Front end of a boat:** "It is called the **bow** (spelled *b-o-w*, pronounced /bau/)."
- **3. Head movement in prayer:** "People **bow** their heads (spelled *b-o-w*, pronounced /bau/)."
- **4. Two pronunciations of bow:** "It may be pronounced /bau/ (to bend; ship's prow) or /bou/ (long *ō*). When pronounced /bou/, it means a curved weapon for shooting arrows, a knot with loops, or a violin rod."

Scoring Rubric (20 Pts):

- **1. Homophone Orthography (5 pts):** Flawless discrimination of *bough* vs. *bow*.
- **2. Socratic Inquiry (5 pts):** Accurate, complete answers to all 4 Wheeler questions.
- **3. Penmanship (5 pts):** Strict 26px line discipline; letters touching 13px midline.
- **4. Sentence Mechanics (5 pts):** Expressive original sentences; correct punctuation.

Mastery: 18–20 | Proficient: 15–17 | Developing: 12–14 | Emerging: <12