

STUDENT NAME: _____

DATE: _____

CLASS: _____

SCORE: _____

LESSON 170 • MEMORY LESSON: MARGARET E. SANGSTER

OLD YEAR • NEW YEAR • CLEAN PAGE

Wheeler's Elementary Speller • Page 89

Classic Moral Literature • Margaret E. Sangster (1838–1912)

“A wonderful guest came to our door, / When the clock was striking twelve; / A guest that had never been seen before, / To dig and to plant and to delve. / He brought us a book with pages clean, / And not a mark upon them seen.”

CONCEPT

Wheeler's Directive: Memorize and recite Sangster's New Year lyric. Notice the beautiful allegory of the New Year bringing an unspotted, clean book of life for every child.

1

Poetic Recitation Copywork • Margaret E. Sangster • 26px Track

Copy the opening lines of the New Year poem neatly:

A wonderful guest came to our door, when the clock was striking twelve; _____

He brought us a book with pages clean, and not a mark upon them seen. _____

2

Literary Vocabulary Studio • Action Verbs of Industry

Study the three agricultural verbs of labor: *dig*, *plant*, *delve*:

delve → to dig deeply with a spade; to labor diligently in study or soil _____

clean → pure; free from soil or stain guest → a visitor welcomed into the home _____

3

Original Composition • New Year Resolution

Write a sentence describing what you hope to write on your 'clean pages' this year:

Resolution: _____

WHEELER'S ORTHOEPIK RULES • ALLEGORY & VOCABULARY

1. **Poetic Allegory:** Sangster personifies the New Year as a mysterious nighttime visitor who presents each human being with a pristine notebook representing time.

2. **Silent U in Guest:** In **guest**, the silent letter *u* protects the hard /g/ sound before *e*, preventing it from sounding like soft /dʒ/.

3. **The Verb Delve:** **delve** (Old English *delfan*) means to dig with a spade. The final *e* prevents the English word from ending in the letter *v*.

LESSON 170 TEACHER GUIDE & ANSWER KEY

LITERATURE • POETRY • NEW YEAR ALLEGORY

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WORD	IPA	GRAMMAR	ETYMOLOGICAL PRESCRIPTION
guest	/ɡest/	Noun	Old Norse <i>gestr</i> . Silent <i>u</i> hardens the <i>g</i> .
delve	/dɛlv/	Verb	Old English <i>delfan</i> . Terminal <i>ve</i> law.
striking	/ˈstraɪkɪŋ/	Participle	Base <i>strike</i> drops silent <i>e</i> before <i>-ing</i> .
clean	/kli:n/	Adjective	Old English <i>clæne</i> . Digraph <i>ea</i> = long /i:/.

COMPLETE ANSWER KEY & SOLUTIONS

WHEELER'S EXERCISES

Exercise 2 Vocabulary Insights:

- guest*: visitor (silent *u* keeps *g* hard).
- delve*: archaic English verb for digging deeply.
- clean*: unblemished white page.

Recitation Drill:

Have children recite with a clear, steady cadence mimicking the midnight clock bells.
Discuss the moral importance of keeping life's pages free of blotches and harsh words.

SOCRATIC GUIDING PROMPTS & PEDAGOGICAL INSIGHTS

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

- Who is the 'wonderful guest' that visits when the clock strikes twelve?
- What does the clean book with unwritten pages represent in our own lives?
- Why is there a letter 'u' in the word 'guest'?

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

- A wonderful guest arrived when the clock was striking twelve.
- He brought us a book with clean white pages.
- The New Year is a fresh gift for every faithful scholar.
- Work diligently and delve deeply into your spelling studies.