

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class / Grade: _____ Score: _____

LESSON 19. POETRY & VOWEL CONTRAST • R-CONTROLLED I

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Poetry & Phonics Study: Mark Short & Long a and i (ă, ā, ī, î). Discover the r-controlled sound of i in 'birds'.

VOWEL CONTRAST & R-CONTROLLED

1. Copy the following carefully. • 2. Put the proper mark over each i or a:

Transcribe each poetic line, then mark a breve (˘) over short a, i or a macron (¯) over long a, i:

SELECTION 1 • SCOTTISH BARD

ROBERT BURNS

The wild birds sang, the wildwood rang.

SELECTION 2 • LYRIC POEM

RICHARD LE GALLIENNE

The sun is weary, for he ran

So far and fast to-day;

The birds are weary, for who sang

So many songs as they?

SELECTION 3 • MORAL COUPLET

PROVERB

Whatever you are, be kind;

Be gentle in manner and mind.

2. 3. Phonological Discovery Question (Directive 3):

Examine the selections above to identify the special sound of the letter i:

“Find a word in which i has some other sound than the long sound or the short sound.”

Target Word: _____ Phonetic Sound: _____

PHONICS & SPELLING RULES TO REMEMBER

1. Long ī in 'Wild' & 'Kind'

In words like **wild**, **wildwood**, **kind**, **mind**, the vowel i represents the long sound /aɪ/ before consonant clusters -ld and -nd.

2. Short ă & ĭ in Closed Syllables

In closed syllables, vowel a makes short /æ/ (sang, rang, ran, fast) and i makes short /ɪ/ (is, in). Marked with a breve: **ă**, **ĭ**.

3. R-Controlled Sound of i ('ir')

In **birds**, vowel i is neither short nor long; followed by r, it forms the vocalic r-controlled sound /ɜ:r/ (as in bird, girl, sir).

LESSON 19: VOWEL CONTRAST & R-CONTROLLED I — MASTER KEY

Complete Diacritical Transcription, R-Controlled 'birds' Analysis & Science of Reading

Official Solution

1. MASTER DIACRITICAL MAP: PHONOLOGICAL MARKING OF A AND I

Robert Burns Selection:

The wīld bīrds sāng, the wīldwood rāng.

Richard Le Gallienne Selection:

The sun īs weary, for he rān
So fār ānd fāst to-dāy;
The bīrds are weary, for who sāng
So many songs ās they?

Moral Couplet Selection:

Whātever you are, be kīnd;
Be gentle īn mānner ānd mīnd.

2. MASTER SOLUTION TO DIRECTIVE 3 (THE THIRD SOUND OF I)

Directive 3 Target Word: **birds** (appears in Burns quote and Le Gallienne poem).

Phonetic Sound: R-controlled vowel sound /ɜ:r/ (Webster wave/tilde notation: **birds**).

Linguistic Principle: The letter r exerts a co-articulatory pull on preceding lax vowels, producing a unique vocalic r phoneme that is acoustically distinct from short /ɪ/ and long /aɪ/.

3. SCIENCE OF READING: R-CONTROLLED VOWELS & MORPHOLOGICAL FAMILIES

R-CONTROLLED SYLLABLE TYPE

In English phonics, r-controlled vowels represent a distinct syllable category. The letter r colours the preceding vowel, neutralizing the short/long contrast into vocalic /ɜ:r/.

POETIC PROSODY & CHARACTER THEME

Burns crafts musical internal consonance (-ang), while Le Gallienne explores the natural fatigue of the sun. The final couplet unites phonics (kind/mind) with social-emotional virtue.

4. ASSESSMENT RUBRIC (25 POINTS TOTAL)

TASK FOCUS	INSTRUCTIONAL STANDARD & CRITERIA	SCORING
1. Copying Accuracy	Neat, baseline-aligned transcription of all 7 poetic lines across the 3 selections.	10 pts (Burns: 2, Le Gallienne: 5, Couplet: 3)
2. Diacritical Marking	Accurately identifying short ā, ī (breve) and long ā, ī (macron) across the selections.	8 pts (Consistency & precision)
3. Discovery Question	Correctly identifying 'birds' as containing r-controlled /ɜ:r/ (neither short nor long).	4 pts (2 pts word + 2 pts sound)
4. Oral Reading Fluency	Rhythmic, expressive recitation reflecting poetic meter and correct vowel values.	3 pts (Prosody & expression)