

STUDENT NAME: _____ DATE: _____ GRADE / CLASS: _____ SCORE: _____

LESSON 54 • LITERATURE & VOWEL DIGRAPH **āi** (/ēī/)

Original Page 32 • Margaret E. Sangster

*“Raise your tuneful voices high
To our Father in the sky —
For the flowers and for the wheat,
For the cold and for the heat,
For the fruit and for the grain,
For the sunshine and the rain.”*

— MARGARET E. SANGSTER



- 1 In the poem above, find and copy all words in which **āi** spells long ā:

- 2 Make a list of words of four or five letters each from the poem and learn to spell them:

FOUR-LETTER WORDS

FIVE-LETTER WORDS

- 3 Picture Study: *A Feather in Her Cap* (John Morgan). Write two complete sentences telling what you see:

Observe the grandmother knitting and the happy child placing a feather in her cap. Use clear handwriting.

RULES TO REMEMBER • LESSON 54

Rule 1 • Digraph āi

When **a** and **i** stand together, they usually spell long **ā** (/ēī/) as in *grain* and *rain*.

Rule 2 • Rhyming Endings

Words sharing the same phonogram rime (like *-ain* in *grain* / *rain*) belong to the same spelling family.

Rule 3 • Letter Counting

Carefully identify word length by counting root letters (e.g., 4-letter: *high*, *wheat*, *cold*; 5-letter: *raise*, *fruit*).

TEACHER: Master Key / Orthographic Guide

LEVEL: Grade 2 / Primary Phonics

FOCUS: Literature & Vowel Digraph *ai*

STANDARD: Wheeler Page 32 (Lesson 54)

LESSON 54 • TEACHER INSTRUCTIONAL KEY & PHONOGRAM MATRIX

Page 32 • Digraph *ai*

Pedagogical Purpose: Integrates poetic literature with orthographic word hunt. Pupils discover that vowel digraph **ai** produces the long **ā** sound (/eɪ/), practice morphological letter-length discrimination (4-letter vs 5-letter words), and engage in expressive picture narration.

TARGET CATEGORY	IDENTIFIED WORDS	PHONETIC & STRUCTURAL NOTES
Long ā (ai Digraph)	grainrain	Both words feature vowel digraph ai representing long /eɪ/ followed by alveolar nasal /n/ (rhyming rime -ain).
Four-Letter Words	highyourcoldheatrain	<i>high</i> contains silent digraph <i>gh</i> ; <i>cold</i> contains closed syllable with dark /ɪ/; <i>heat</i> contains vowel team <i>ea</i> .
Five-Letter Words	raisewheatfruitgrain	<i>raise</i> contains silent final <i>e</i> ; <i>wheat</i> features consonant digraph <i>wh</i> -; <i>fruit</i> has vowel diphthong <i>ui</i> (/u:/).
Picture Composition	featherknittingcapgrandmother	Observation prompt: encourages pupils to connect descriptive visual storytelling with complete grammatical sentences.

EXERCISES 1, 2, & 3: COMPLETE MASTER SOLUTIONS

Exercise 1 (Long ā Words with **ai**): *grain, rain*. (Accept also *raise* if pupil notes initial /reɪz/).

Exercise 2 (Word Length Sorting):

- Four-letter words: *high, your, cold, heat, rain* (also *each* if included).
- Five-letter words: *raise, wheat, fruit, grain*.

Exercise 3 (Picture Observation Model): *The little girl puts a white feather in her grandmother's cap. The kind grandmother smiles as she knits a warm shawl.*

SOCRATIC PROMPT 1 (VOWEL DIGRAPH DISCOVERY)

"Look at the words *rain* and *grain* in Margaret Sangster's poem. Which two letters sit together in the middle? What single long sound do they make together?"

SOCRATIC PROMPT 2 (ORTHOGRAPHIC COUNTING)

"Let us count the letters in *wheat*: w-h-e-a-t. How many letters are there? Is the sound of *ea* long or short here?"

- ORAL PRACTICE & DICTATION SENTENCES (TEACHER READ-ALOUD)
- The gentle summer rain fell upon the golden grain in the field.
 - Raise your tuneful voice to sing a happy song of thanksgiving.
 - The cool wind brought relief from the afternoon summer heat.
 - She placed a soft white feather into her grandmother's bonnet cap.