

STUDENT NAME: _____

DATE: _____

CLASS: _____

SCORE: _____

LESSON 78 • BROAD A IN MORAL VERSE

CARY SISTERS

Wheeler's Elementary Speller — Page 44

“Read and copy the moral verses by Alice and Phoebe Cary. Put the proper diacritical mark under each letter *a* that has the broad sound: ă as in *all*.”

CONCEPT

1 Poetic Copywork & Diacritic Hunt — Copy each couplet and place a dot under every broad ă:

“Leaning from the hedge-row wall,
Gave the rose her sweets to all.”
— ALICE CARY (1820–1871)

“Be thy labor great or small,
Do it well, or not at all.”
— PHOEBE CARY (1824–1871)

2 Orthoepic Detection — List all 4 words from the poems having broad ă, and write their rhyme sound:

Word 1 (Couplet 1)

Word 2 (Couplet 1)

Word 3 (Couplet 2)

Word 4 (Couplet 2)

3 Sentence Composition — Express Phoebe Cary’s moral rule in your own words:

LITERATURE & ORTHOGRAPHY RULES TO REMEMBER:

1. Poetic Rhymes in Broad A: Couplets in both poems rely on the broad vowel rhyme /-ɔ:l/: wall / all and small / all.

2. Hyphenated Nouns: Hedge-row: Compound descriptive nouns like hedge-row are linked by a hyphen when acting as a compound unit.

3. Archaic Pronoun “Thy”: In classical 19th-century verse, thy means your, and is paired with singular subjects (thy labor).

LESSON 78 TEACHER GUIDE & ANSWER KEY

CARY SISTERS POETRY

Wheeler's Elementary Speller — Page 44

TARGET TERM	IPA PHONETICS	POETIC ROLE	PEDAGOGICAL & MORAL INSIGHTS
wall / all	/wɔ:l/ / :ɔ:l/	End rhyme (Alice Cary)	Broad a — generosity of nature; the rose gives perfume to everyone.
small / all	/smɔ:l/ / :ɔ:l/	End rhyme (Phoebe Cary)	Moral maxim — diligence in duty; excellence in small tasks as well as large.
hedge-row	/'hɛdʒ.rou/	Compound noun	Orthography — silent d in soft -dge; digraph ow = /oʊ/.
labor	/'leɪ.bər/	Noun (Latin labor)	American spelling — Wheeler standardizes -or over British -our.

COMPLETE ANSWER KEY & SOLUTIONS

WHEELER'S EXERCISES

EX. 1 & 2 SOLUTIONS

- Diacritic Hunt:** Place dot under a in: **wāll, āll, smāll, āll.**
- Rhyme Sound:** All 4 words share /-ɔ:l/.

EX. 3 SAMPLE REFLECTION

"Even if a chore seems **small** and simple, I should do my very best work and do it well, or not at **all**."

SOCRATIC GUIDING PROMPTS & PEDAGOGICAL INSIGHTS

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

- Diligence in Little Things:** Ask: "What did Phoebe Cary mean by: Be thy labor great or small, do it well or not at all?" (Every job deserves our whole heart!).
- The Cary Sisters:** Share with students that Alice and Phoebe Cary were beloved American poet sisters who grew up on an Ohio farm.
- Diacritic Precision:** Have students verify that each dot is centered neatly under the belly of the letter *a*.

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

- "The wild roses blossomed sweet upon the cottage **wall**."
- "Be faithful in every **small** duty given to you."
- "Do your daily **labor** with cheerfulness and goodwill."
- "Truth and honor are the greatest treasures of **all**."