

STUDENT NAME: _____

DATE: _____

GRADE / ROOM: _____

SCORE: _____

LESSONS 85 & 86 • ANDERSEN'S "THE FLAX" & SILENT CONSONANTS (K & B)

Concept: "Seen but not heard" • Page 47

1

Lesson 85: Literature Study & Sentence Copywork: Read Andersen's poetic prose. Copy the closing lines on the handwriting lines below.

HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN

"The flax was in full bloom. It had pretty little blue flowers as frail as the wings of a moth... The sun shone, and the showers watered it... They look much prettier for it, and so did the flax."

— HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN

Copy: "They look much prettier for it, and so did the flax."

2

Lesson 86: Silent Letter Detective: Read each word aloud. Draw a red line through the silent letter (~~k~~ or ~~b~~), then copy neatly.

16 TARGET WORDS

SILENT B AFTER M

dumb

crumb

thumb

numb

SILENT B IN -MB & -BT

lamb

climb

doubt

debt

SILENT K BEFORE N

knot

knob

knock

knit

SILENT K BEFORE N

knife

knee

kneel

knew

CONSONANT DOUBLING:
DOUBLE CONSONANT BEFORE -ED / -ING

knotted

knobbed

knitting

3

Original Sentence Application: Choose any 2 silent letter words above and write an original sentence for each.

SYNTHESIS & MEANING

KEY ORTHOGRAPHIC RULES TO REMEMBER

1. Silent K before N: When **k** precedes **n** at the beginning of an Anglo-Saxon root (~~k~~not, ~~k~~nee, ~~k~~nife), the **k** is completely silent.

2. Silent B after M / before T: At the end of a syllable after **m** (~~b~~thumb, ~~b~~climb) or before **t** (~~b~~doubt, ~~b~~debt), the letter **b** is silent.

3. Consonant Doubling: When adding -ed or -ing to a one-syllable word ending in a single short vowel and consonant, double the final letter (knot → knotted; knit → knitting).

INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDE • LESSONS 85 & 86 (ANDERSEN & SILENT LETTERS)

Literary Scansion, Etymological Vestiges & Orthography

1 Classroom Dictation Sentences (Administer at Natural Cadence)

DECODABLE APPLICATION

Sentence 1: "The gentle **lamb** began to **climb** the hill without a **doubt** or fear." [Targets: lamb, climb, doubt • Silent b]

Sentence 2: "He tied a firm **knot** in the string with his cold, **numb thumb**." [Targets: knot, numb, thumb • Silent k & b]

Sentence 3: "She **knelt** on one **knee** and cut the **knitting** wool with a sharp **knife**." [Targets: kneel/knelt, knee, knitting, knife • Silent k]

Sentence 4: "The blue **flax** blossoms shone brightly after the sweet summer **showers**." [Targets: flax, shone, showers • Lesson 85 Andersen vocabulary]

2 Phonetic Matrix & Etymological Analysis

LINGUISTIC DECODING

Category / Pattern	Target Words	Historical Etymology & Sound Rules
Silent 'b' (-mb)	dumb, crumb, thumb, numb, lamb, climb	In Old English (<i>damb</i> , <i>crumb</i>), the final /b/ was originally articulated. Over centuries of nasal assimilation, speakers ceased voicing the /b/, leaving an unpronounced orthographic marker.
Silent 'b' (-bt)	doubt, debt	Borrowed from Old French <i>doute</i> and <i>dette</i> . Renaissance scholars reinserted the letter 'b' to reflect their Latin origins (<i>dubitare</i> , <i>debitum</i>), though it was never spoken in English.
Silent 'k' (kn-)	knot, knob, knock, knit, knife, knee, kneel, knew	From Proto-Germanic * <i>kneww</i> , Old English <i>cnēow</i> . In Early English, both /k/ and /n/ were pronounced like modern German <i>Knie</i> . In Middle English, the cluster simplified to /n/.
Consonant Doubling	knotted, knobbed, knitting	1-1-1 Rule: 1 syllable, 1 short vowel, 1 final consonant. When adding a vowel suffix (-ed, -ing), double the consonant to preserve the short vowel sound.

SILENT LETTER CANCELLATION KEY19 TARGET WORDS

LESSON 85 COPYWORK & MORPHOLOGICAL KEYANDERSEN PROSE

- **Silent b:** dum~~b~~, crum~~b~~, thum~~b~~, num~~b~~, lam~~b~~, clim~~b~~, doub~~t~~, deb~~t~~
- **Silent k:** ~~k~~not, ~~k~~nob, ~~k~~nock, ~~k~~nit, ~~k~~nife, ~~k~~nee, ~~k~~neel, ~~k~~new
- **Inflections:** ~~k~~notted, ~~k~~nobbed, ~~k~~nit
- Check that student drew a clean slash through the designated silent letter only.

Target Copywork: "They look much prettier for it, and so did the flax."

Morphology Notes:

- *pretty* → *prettier*: Change 'y' to 'i' before comparative suffix -er.
- *watered*, *washed*, *kissed*: Past tense suffix -ed pronounced /d/ in *watered*, /t/ in *washed* and *kissed*.

3 Socratic Discussion & Multi-Sensory Teaching Notes

PEDAGOGICAL TIPS

1. "Seen But Not Heard": Discuss the humorous 19th-century adage. Ask: "How does the silent letter k help us know the difference between *knot* (rope) and *not* (negation)?"

2. Tactile Finger Tracing: Have children trace the silent k with their finger while remaining silent, then vocalize aloud only as their finger reaches the n!

3. Andersen Nature Reflection: Explain what flax is (a slender plant used to spin fine linen). Discuss how rain and sunshine help plants bloom just as love helps children flourish.

TEACHER EVALUATION & MASTERY STANDARDS

Mastery Criteria: 100% precision in cancelling silent letters k and b across all 19 vocabulary words; flawless copywork of Andersen's closing clause; and accurate spelling of doubled consonants in inflected forms (*knotted*, *knobbed*, *knitting*).