

STUDENT NAME: _____

DATE: _____

CLASS: _____

SCORE: _____

LESSON 85 • HANS C. ANDERSEN: "THE FLAX" **ANDERSEN PROSE**

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“Read and copy this lovely passage from Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tale, *The Flax*’. Study its descriptive vocabulary, comparative words, and flowing punctuation.”

CONCEPT

1 Prose Showcase & Copywork — Read with expression, then transcribe the first two sentences neatly:

“The flax was in full bloom. It had pretty little blue flowers as frail as the wings of a moth, or even more so. The sun shone, and the showers watered it, and this was as good for the flax as it is for little children to be washed and then kissed by their mothers. They look much prettier for it, and so did the flax.”

— HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN (1805–1875)

2 Comparative Similes & Morphology — Study the comparisons in Andersen's tale:

THE MOTH SIMILE

Complete: “flowers as _____ as the wings of a moth.”

COMPARATIVE SUFFIX -ER

Show how *pretty* (ending in y) changes to *prettier*:

3 Sentence Composition — Write what lessons the sun, showers, and flax teach us:

LITERATURE & MORPHOLOGICAL RULES TO REMEMBER:

1. **Y to I Rule in "Prettier":** When adding *-er* or *-est* to a base word ending in a consonant + y (*pretty*), change y to i: *prettier*.

2. **Comparative Similes: "As... As":** The comparative structure *as frail as* paints a vivid picture by linking two delicate objects (flax blossoms and moth wings).

3. **Compound Subject & Verb Harmony:** In "*The sun shone, and the showers watered it*", two independent clauses are joined by a comma and conjunction *and*.

LESSON 85 TEACHER GUIDE & ANSWER KEY

ANDERSEN FAIRY TALE PROSE

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TARGET TERM	IPA PHONETICS	GRAMMATICAL ROLE	PEDAGOGICAL & LITERARY NOTES
flax	/flæks/	Noun (botanical)	Short a — historical crop used to make linen thread and fine paper.
frail	/fretl/	Adjective (digraph ai)	Digraph ai — long ā sound /eɪ/; means delicate, fragile, easily broken.
prettier	/ˈprɪt.i.ər/	Comparative adjective	Morphology — <i>pretty</i> changes y to i before comparative suffix -er.
showers	/ˈʃəʊ.ərz/	Noun plural (diphthong ow)	Diphthong ow — /aʊ/ as in <i>flower</i> , <i>brown</i> ; gentle rain.

COMPLETE ANSWER KEY & SOLUTIONS

WHEELER'S EXERCISES

EX. 1 & 2 SOLUTIONS

- Simile Completion:** "flowers as **frail** as the wings of a moth."
- Y to I Law:** *pretty* → drop y, add i → **prettier**.

EX. 3 SAMPLE RESPONSE

"Just as gentle rain and warm sunshine nourish the delicate blue flowers of the **flax**, so do loving care, kindness, and clean water help little children grow strong and cheerful."

SOCRATIC GUIDING PROMPTS & PEDAGOGICAL INSIGHTS

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

- What is Flax?** Explain that linen shirts and handkerchiefs were made from flax fibers spun by early spinners.
- The Y to I Rule:** Ask: *"If happy becomes happier, and pretty becomes prettier, what does silly become?"* (Sillier!).
- Literary Tone:** Guide students to appreciate Andersen's tender, poetic storytelling.

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

- "The field of blue **flax** was in full and lovely **bloom**."
- "The gentle spring **showers** fell upon the thirsty garden."
- "Her clean, smiling face looked much **prettier** than before."
- "The wings of the evening moth were very soft and **frail**."