

STUDENT NAME: _____

DATE: _____

CLASS: _____

SCORE: _____

LESSON 89 • INTERMEDIATE A SOUND (Ă) IN POETRY Ă = /Æ/ ~ /ɑ:/

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Classic Literature • Lucy Larcom & Sir Walter Scott

"It makes my heart bound, just to pass / The sunbeams dancing in the grass." — **LUCY LARCOM**

"Summer eve is gone and past, / Summer dew is falling fast." — **SIR WALTER SCOTT**

CONCEPT

Wheeler's Phonic Direction: Copy the lines carefully. Put the proper diacritic mark (·) over each **a** that has the intermediate sound of *a* as in *ask*.

1

Poetic Transcription & Penmanship Copywork

Transcribe both classic stanzas with perfect posture, capitalization, and punctuation on the guidelines below:

2

Intermediate ă Diacritic Detection & Word Isolation

Locate the **5 words** from the stanzas where *a* has the intermediate sound (as in *ask*). Write each word and place the single dot (·) above the **ă**:

1. Larcom 1

2. Larcom 2

3. Larcom 3

4. Scott 1

5. Scott 2

3

Vowel Discrimination & Contrast Analysis

Compare the different sounds of the letter *a* in the poems. Match each word to its precise phonic vowel value:

makes: Long ā (/eɪ/)

heart: Italian ä (/ɑ:/)

and: Short ă (/æ/)

falling: Broad &adotbelow; (/ɔ:/)

WHEELER'S ORTHOEPIC RULES • INTERMEDIATE A (Ă)

1. 1. **Intermediate ă Quality:** Intermediate ă is acoustic midway between flat short ä in *at* and open Italian ä in *arm*. Marked with a single dot above (ă).

2. 2. **Consonant Conditioning:** Intermediate ă appears before voiceless fricatives and consonant clusters: -ss (*pass, grass*), -st (*past, fast*), and -nc- (*dance*).

3. 3. **Elegant Orthoepy:** Avoid broad vowel flattening (do not pronounce *fast* as *fawst* nor harsh flat *făst*); cultivate a refined, open vocal delivery.

LESSON 89 TEACHER GUIDE & ANSWER KEY

LESSON 89 • TEACHER MASTER KEY

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TARGET WORD	DIACRITIC & PHONICS	ORTHOEPIC RULE & RHYME	LITERARY CITATION
pass	päss • /pæs/ ~ /pa:s/	Voiceless sibilant -ss conditioning intermediate ä	Lucy Larcom (1824–1893)
dancing	dànc-ing • /dænsɪ cb;/	Cluster -nc- preserves intermediate vowel quality	Lucy Larcom (1824–1893)
grass	gräss • /græs/ ~ /gra:s/	Consonant blend gr- + conditioned -ss; rhymes with pass	Lucy Larcom (1824–1893)
past	päst • /pæst/ ~ /pa:st/	Cluster -st; contrast homophone passed	Sir Walter Scott (1771–1832)
fast	fäst • /fæst/ ~ /fa:st/	Cluster -st; perfect end rhyme with past	Sir Walter Scott (1771–1832)

COMPLETE ANSWER KEY & SOLUTIONS

WHEELER'S EXERCISES

Exercise 1 (Transcription): Full stanzas copied verbatim with proper indentation and author attributions.

Exercise 2 (Intermediate à Words):

- päss (Larcom)
- dàncing (Larcom)
- gräss (Larcom)
- päst (Scott)
- fäst (Scott)

Exercise 3 (Vowel Contrast Identification):

- makes → Long a (ā) with silent final -e.
- heart → Italian a (ä) conditioned by r.
- and → Standard short a (ă).
- falling → Broad a (&adotbelow;) before double l.

SOCRATIC GUIDING PROMPTS & PEDAGOGICAL INSIGHTS

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

- Pronounce 'pass' and 'grass' aloud. Notice where your tongue rests compared to 'pat' and 'part'.
- Why is the dot placed over the 'a' in 'past' but not in 'makes'?
- Look at 'falling' in Scott's poem: why is this 'a' marked with a dot below instead of above?

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

- The children love to run and dance upon the soft green grass.
- Summer eve is gone and past, and the cool evening shadows lengthen fast.
- Do not pass by the meadow while the morning dew sparkles in the sunlight.
- Lucy Larcom watched the golden sunbeams dancing upon the garden pathway.