

LESSON 91 • THE FREE GIFTS OF NATURE

12 NATURE NOUNS • LITERARY MODELS • COMPOSITION

1

Read each word aloud. Copy each word neatly on its handwriting line:

12 Nature Words

air

sun

dew

rain

sky

stars

wind

snow

light

moon

clouds

water

2

Literary Inspiration • Observe how great poets use these nature words:

Poetic Models

PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY

*"The **clouds** were gone to play."*

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

*"O **wind**, that sings so loud a song."*

THOMAS COLE

*"The **stars** came out to watch the daylight die."*

ELAINE GOODALE

*"The big yellow **moon** hung low in the west."*

3

Wheeler's Directive • Select five words from the list above and write original sentences:

Original Composition

Sentence 1 • Selected Word: []

(Start with a capital letter • end with punctuation)

Sentence 2 • Selected Word: []

(Describe nature, weather, or the sky)

Sentence 3 • Selected Word: []

(Try using an interesting action verb)

Sentence 4 • Selected Word: []

(Tell where or when this happens)

Sentence 5 • Selected Word: []

(Master challenge: include two nature words!)

1. Orthographic & Phonemic Analysis of the 12 Nature Words

All twelve nouns represent common elemental phenomena freely accessible in the natural world. Group them phonologically during review:

Word	IPA & Phonemes	Spelling Pattern	Teaching & Decoding Notes
air	/ɛər/ • 1 syl	Vowel team ai before r	Care vowel sound (ā); compare with <i>hair</i> and <i>chair</i> (Lesson 93).
sky	/skaɪ/ • 1 syl	Initial blend sk-; vowel y	Final y functions as long ī in single-syllable root.
light	/laɪt/ • 1 syl	Silent trigraph -igh-	Long ī spelled igh followed by dental stop t.
sun	/sʌn/ • 1 syl	CVC short ū	Pure short vowel; contrast with homophone <i>son</i> .
stars	/stɑːrz/ • 1 syl	Italian ā before r + plural -s	Root <i>star</i> (/ɑːr/); suffix -s voiced as /z/.
moon	/muːn/ • 1 syl	Digraph oo (/uː/)	Long double o as in <i>noon</i> , <i>spoon</i> , <i>bloom</i> .
dew	/djuː/ or /duː/	Vowel team -ew	Homophone with <i>due</i> ; compare with <i>blew</i> (Lesson 90).
wind	/wɪnd/ • 1 syl	Short ī before -nd	Noun pronunciation /wɪnd/ (contrasting with verb /waɪnd/ to turn).
clouds	/klaʊdz/ • 1 syl	Diphthong ou (/aʊ/)	Blend cl- + diphthong ou + voiced plural -ds.
rain	/reɪn/ • 1 syl	Vowel team ai (/eɪ/)	Long ā spelled ai; contrast with homophones <i>rein</i> , <i>reign</i> .
snow	/snoʊ/ • 1 syl	Digraph ow (/oʊ/)	Long ō sound spelled ow; compare with <i>crow</i> , <i>grow</i> .
water	/ˈwɔːtər/ • 2 syl	Broad ɑ after w + -er	Influence of w rounds vowel a to /ɔː/; trochaic meter.

2. Exemplar Student Compositions & Literary Authors

Exemplar Student Sentences (Directive 2):

- air: *The cool autumn air felt sweet as we ran across the open meadow.*
- sun: *The golden morning sun warmed the frosty green grass.*
- stars & moon: *Countless twinkling stars circled the bright yellow moon in the midnight sky.*
- wind: *A cheerful autumn wind blew crisp crimson leaves into the brook.*
- clouds & water: *Heavy gray clouds poured refreshing water upon the thirsty garden flowers.*

Literary Author Profiles:

- Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792–1822): Romantic poet master of nature imagery ("The Cloud", "Ode to the West Wind").
- Robert Louis Stevenson (1850–1894): Author of "A Child's Garden of Verses" ("The Wind").
- Thomas Cole (1801–1848): Renowned American landscape painter and poet, founder of the Hudson River School.
- Elaine Goodale Eastman (1863–1953): New England child prodigy poet and educator.

3. Classroom Dictation Sentences & Socratic Discussion

4 Classroom Dictation Sentences:

- "The fresh morning **air** was cool after the gentle **rain**."
- "The bright **sun** melted the white winter **snow**."
- "The **stars** and the yellow **moon** shone in the dark **sky**."
- "The gentle **wind** blew dark **clouds** full of **water**."

Socratic Nature Inquiry:

- "Why did Wheeler title this lesson 'Things Free to Boys and Girls'?" (Because nature's beauty costs nothing and is open to every child equally).
- "Which of these twelve gifts can you see? Which can you only feel?" (We feel the air and wind, but see the sun, stars, moon, rain, snow, clouds, water).

4. Elementary Composition Standards & Cross-Curricular Nature Study

- Evaluation Rubric for 5 Original Sentences:
- Grammatical Architecture:** Every sentence must commence with a capital letter and conclude with appropriate terminal punctuation (. or !).
 - Orthographic Precision:** The chosen target nature noun must be spelled flawlessly.
 - Semantic Substance:** Encourage descriptive adjectives ("golden sun", "chilly air", "dark clouds") and vigorous action verbs.

- Wheeler's Nature Study Principle (1901):
- "Language lessons succeed best when drawing upon the spontaneous wonder of childhood. By grounding vocabulary in the observable heavens, the changing winds, and the fallen snow, spelling ceases to be a dry chore and becomes an avenue of genuine poetic expression."