

INSTRUCTOR'S GUIDES

LANGUAGE ARTS

TRY BEFORE YOU BUY!

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Teach writing naturally and with confidence using Sonlight's unique Language Arts Instructor's Guides. LA Guides also include:

1 TEACHING SCRIPTS (IN THE EARLY GRADES)

Read the teaching scripts in the IG when you introduce new ideas, concepts, and assignments. Great for parents just starting to homeschool or to provide extra confidence when teaching!

2 OVERVIEW SUMMARIES

Weekly overviews summarize the concepts, skills and assignments for each week.

3 COPYWORK/DICTATION ASSIGNMENTS

With weekly copywork or dictation assignments, children model master communicators to learn the basics of writing. Assignments are based on your children's ages and ability levels, and most passages come from their Readers.

4 SPELLING/PHONICS

Phonics instruction is included in the LA Guides for levels K-4. Spelling instruction is included in the LA Guides for levels 1-4. In language arts levels D-F, choose one of our stand-alone spelling programs (p. 81).

5 GRAMMAR AND WRITING MECHANICS

Receive clear grammar instruction about specific concepts from the week's copywork or dictation passage, then complete a few exercises to practice and reinforce the concepts. Answers included. Your children will learn to communicate effectively.

3

Creative Expression

41 Copywork 1

Slowly break down the words **hit**, **rib**, **pit**, and **Tim** by their sounds as you and your children read. Have your children copy them on the **Week 11 Activity Sheet**.
Tim is the name of a person. What do we do differently with names? (we start them with capital letters)
hit.rib.pit.Tim

42 Copywork Application

Overview

Introduce: root/base words with different initial sounds
Review: names; rhymes, vowel sounds (i)

Together

On the **Week 11 Activity Sheet**:

1. Use the word **it** as a root or base word. Put different consonants in front of it and see how many words you can form. (*bit, fit, hit, kit, lit, nit, pit, sit, wit, zit*)

2. Underline the name. (*Tim*)

3. Circle the word that rhymes with **fib**. (*rib*)

4. Put a box around all the vowels (*i*)

hit.rib.pit.Tim

7

43 The Cat Book

Prepare in Advance

Find *The Cat Book* located at the end of this week's notes. Cut along the dotted lines, fold the booklet pages in the middle, and sort the pages in order. You may want to staple a piece of construction paper to the outside if you'd like your children to illustrate the cover of their book, but it's not necessary.

Overview

Write a story to go along with *The Cat Book* illustrations located at the end of this week's notes.

1

Together

Write the Story

I have a book that already has illustrations, but it's missing the story! Do you think you could help me write the story for it today?

Hand your children *The Cat Book* booklet.

First, look through the book. Look at all of the pictures to get an idea of how the story might unfold.

Who do you think is the main character?

6

What will you call him?
What do you think is happening in each picture?
Remember to think about the questions a reader might have:
Why is the cat at the beach?
What does he make?
What does he want to do with the boat?
What solution does he come up with?
How does it work out?
When you're ready, look at the pictures on each page and tell me the story you think goes with them.
As they tell you the story, keep an eye on the questions an average reader would have above. Let your interaction with them about their story guide them to answer each question as they write. Feel free to let this creative writing process ebb and flow a little more like a conversation with them about the story, rather than a strict storytelling experience where you simply write down whatever they say without comment.
When they have finished telling the story, work together to make up a title for their new story, and you'll have a new book to practice reading together that your children wrote themselves! Be sure to give them all the help they need. By working together, you'll help them gain confidence in their writing abilities.

How to Evaluate This Assignment

As you will have worked together to craft this story with your children, formal evaluation isn't crucial. Here is a simple checklist of skills this activity should address.

The Cat Book Skills Checklist

Key: Excelled: ✓ + Met Expectation: ✓ In Progress: →

Content

Did your children write a story that aligns to the pictures in the book?

Did your children think creatively and draft an imaginative story?

Did the story answer the questions a typical reader might have?

Does the story have a beginning, middle and end?

Presentation

Optional: Worked with Mom or Dad to "edit" this assignment.

Language Arts K | 4-Day | Section Two | Week 11 | 45

Without Tears: Letters and Numbers for Me				
Fun Tales	Read #2: "Tap?"			
Copywork 1	Copywork Application	The Cat Book	Copywork 2	Optional: Dictionary
Other Notes:				

2

Weekly Overview

Letter of the Week: **i**

Language, Phonics & Spelling:

Special Interest Vocabulary: Introduce your children to vocabulary for topics that are important to your family's life.

Brain Challenges—Organization: Sorting practice.

Building Words: Form words with vowel and consonant cards; letter sound recognition; word recognition.

Creative Expression:

Copywork Application: Root/base words with different initial sounds; names; rhymes; vowels. (i)

Write a story to go along with predetermined illustrations. (Narration)

Parental Notes

Language Arts K | 4-Day | Section Two | Week 11 | 43

6 EVALUATIVE RUBRICS

Easily determine how to evaluate your children's work. Are they on track? What areas could use additional practice? What are the expectations in this assignment?

7 EFFECTIVE CREATIVE WRITING INSTRUCTION

Step-by-step creative writing instruction encourages exploration and sets your children free to develop their creative side. They become superb written communicators, too.

Your IG includes assignments in a wide variety of styles and genres, including imaginative, persuasive, expository, narrative, journaling, etc. Each assignment includes instruction and a sample of what your student might produce.

The writing assignments follow a consistent pattern each week: copywork or dictation on Days 1 and 5; mechanics instruction and practice on Day 2; pre-planning for writing on Day 3; writing assignment on Day 4.

8 ACTIVITY SHEETS AND ANSWERS

Activity sheets reinforce your teaching and provide assignments that make your children eager to learn how to write well. A variety of activity options coordinate with your students' language arts studies and draw on a range of skills and interests. Weekly notes provide answers to grammar questions and suggested responses for creative writing assignments.

HANDWRITING/VOCABULARY

All levels include schedules for optional workbooks. These workbooks offer your children additional practice in areas where they may struggle, such as phonics, handwriting, grammar, and vocabulary. See pp. 80-82 for these supplemental materials. 🌞

Language Arts 1

Days 86–90: Date: _____ to _____

Week Overview

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36

Week 18

	Date:	Day 86	Day 87	Day 88	Day 89	Day 90
SPELLING	Words	Introduce the Words	Write Them Big!	Copy Them Small	Mix It Up!	
	<i>I Can Read It! Word Lists</i>	Lesson 18				
PHONICS	Activities		Form Words	Play Concentration		
	Optional: <i>Explode the Code 2</i>	pp. 55–56	p. 57	p. 58	p. 59	
HANDWRITING	<i>Handwriting Without Tears: My Printing Book</i>	p. 50		p. 51		
READERS	<i>I Can Read It! Book 3</i>	"The Tent" pp. 12–14	"A Hint" pp. 15–16	"A Cast" pp. 17–18	"The Fish" pp. 19–20	"Fish and Chips" pp. 21–22
CREATIVE EXPRESSION		Copywork 1	Contractions	Synthesis	Match Middle Sounds	Copywork 2

Other Notes:

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4

Spelling: /qu/ digraph


Phonics:

Form Words: vowels and consonant recognition


Play Concentration: sight words

Vowel Activity Sheet 4


Circle the letter that makes the first sound in the name of each picture. Then write the letter in the space provided.




a f m



f a p



d o a



c b a

ant, Africa, astronaut, antler

Vowel Activity Sheet 4 | Language Arts K

Not sure what levels your children need?

TAKE A FREE LANGUAGE ARTS ASSESSMENT.

sonlight.com/assessment