Reading Quest
Tips for Teaching Reading

Remember to SMOOSH or blend all letter sounds during reading!

1. **ABC:** Learn the name of each letter of the alphabet, upper and lower case, and the sound each letter makes (first learn the hard C and G sounds). The name of each letter is what we say when we sing the ABC song.

2. **Vowels:** Learn the 5 vowels - A E I O U (their names, and their short vowel sound). Each vowel has a name and a short sound.

3. **Short Vowel Sounds:** When there is only one vowel between two consonants, use the short vowel sound.

A is for apple

E is for elephant

I is for itch

O is for octopus

U is for up

➢ This rule covers hundreds of CVC words (consonant, vowel, consonant) such as hat, pit, pan, hen, dot, tub, and mat. It also works for one-syllable words with one vowel and a blend or digraph at the start, such as cram, shin, plum, crib, trot, then.

Suggested Books

➢ Bob Books
➢ Nora Gaydos book
➢ Phonic Books - Moon Dogs series
➢ Phonic Books - Dandelion Readers

4. **Consonant Blends:** A consonant blend is when two or more consonants are blended together, but each sound may be heard in the blend.
➢ Consonant blends include: bl, br, cl, cr, dr, fr, tr, fl, gl, gr, pl, pr, sl, sm, sp, st.

Blends can occur at the beginning (crash, glop, flip) or at the end of words (fast, dent, gasp).

Suggested Books

➢ Nora Gaydos
➢ Phonic Books - Magic Belt series
➢ Phonic Books - That Dog series

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5. **Digraphs (CH, WH, SH, TH, CK):** Blend the two sounds together into one!
   ➢ It's helpful to explain what our tongue and lips do for each of these blends, such as making the TH sound, we often put our tongue between our teeth, as in this, that, then, and with.
   ➢ CH = cha cha cha or choo choo
   ➢ SH = Sh! Be quiet! What we say in the library…
   ➢ WH = w as in whistle – a very soft sound that is mostly breath mixing with whatever vowel sound comes next.
   ➢ CK = K as in sock
   ➢ PH = f as in phone

   Suggested Books
   ➢ Nora Gaydos Books
   ➢ Phonic Books - Magic Belt series
   ➢ Phonic Books - That Dog series
   ➢ Phonic Books - Some of the Dandelion series

6. **MAGIC e:** When a one-syllable word or a part of a word ends with an e, it's called a Magic e word because…
   The 'e' at the end of the word does magic on the first vowel and makes the first vowel say its name.
   ➢ Cake, dive, cone, cute, mane, stone, crime.

   Suggested Books
   ➢ Nora Gaydos
   ➢ Phonic Books - Moon Dogs Magic e
   ➢ Phonic Books - Dandelion Magic e
   ➢ Phonic Books - Moon Dogs Vowel Spelling series (a few)
   ➢ Reading Quest books: Kate and Jake, Mike and His Bike, Sage the Mage

7. **2 VOWELS WALKING:** When there are 2 vowels together in a word, we say:
   "When 2 vowels go walking, the first one does the talking and says his name (A, E, I, O, and U). The second vowel doesn't say anything at all!" (This is true 45% of the time.)
   ➢ bean, boat, rain, cue, sprain, suit, claim, greet, bloat, play
   Note: this rule works approximately 45% of the time.

   Suggested Books
   ➢ Nora Gaydos Books
   ➢ Phonic Books: Totem series, Rescue Series, Moon Dog Vowel Spelling Series 1, Alba series
   ➢ More Phonic book series

8. **R Controlled Vowels (Bossy R):** The letter r is quite bossy and when it follows a vowel, it often bosses that vowel into saying a new combined sound with the r. Even if there is only one vowel, if it is followed by an r, it makes the sound the r wants it to say.
   ➢ AR as in car and star, and what a pirate says! ARR!
   ➢ OR as in corn or horn and the word or.
   ➢ ER as in pert and her, and what we say when we are mad! And at the end of words such as butter, bigger, and better

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➢ UR as in hurt or turn
➢ IR as in bird or sir

Suggested Books
➢ Nora Gaydos Books and Phonic Books: Alba series, Totem, Rescue, Dragon Eggs

9. **BIG WORDS:** Twins: If you see two of the same consonants next to each other in a word, break it up there:
   ➢ but-ter, bat-ter, col-lect, cot-ton, big-ger
   ➢ Then read each syllable to see what rule each syllable follows. The twins only make one sound when they are together.

   When you see a word with 2 consonants in the middle, divide the word between the two consonants to sound it out:
   ➢ nap-kin, bas-ket, sun-tan

   Look for small words that fit the rules within larger words.
   ➢ in-de-pen-dent, con-cen-tra-tion, but-ter-fly, con-stel-la-tion

   Suggested Books that include all of the Reading Rules
   ➢ Dragon Eggs, Island Adventure, Talisman 1 and Talisman 2, Titan's Gauntlet

10. **SHY Q:** Qu are very best friends but Q is VERY shy and won't ever be in a word without his friend U. Together they make the sound, qwuh. U does not act like a vowel when it's helping Q.
    ➢ Queen, quit, quite, quote.

11. **KN:** One day, when the letter n followed the letter K in a word, K kicked the n! The n turned around and angrily told the K, "NO—you cannot talk! You kicked me, so from now on, you may not make a sound when I am next to you." That's why the letter k is always silent when it is in front of the letter n.
    ➢ Knit, knot, knight, knave, knife.

12. **PH = F:** When ph are together, they make the sound F.
    ➢ phone, photo, oomph.

13. **OW! OU!** Ou and Ow often say, OW! like when you have an owie.
    ➢ Cow, pow, town, clown, power. (ow is often at the end of a word)
    ➢ Sound, ground, out, spout, mouth. (ou is always in the middle of a word)

    Ow sometimes says the name of the letter O
    ➢ Snow, know, grow, crow, throw.

14. **Two Os together….You are sooo cool!** As in boo, school, moo, pool, and cool! This is the more common way to read "oo."
    ➢ As in pool, cool, stool, school, hoop, noon.

    Variation: Sometimes, when there are two of the letter o, they make the sound you hear in book, look, took, crook, and foot.

15. **HARD C vs SOFT C:** Most of the time, the letter c makes a hard c sound, as in
➢ corn, cake, cap, crab, clip, castle, cut, catch.

However, when a c is followed by an e, i, or y, the c says s (soft c sound), as in:
➢ cent, circus, ice, city, mice, pace, place, fancy, pencil, cell, celery.

We sing a jazzy finger snapping tune, “When a c is followed by an e (or an i or a y), the c says s (the soft c sound)” to remember this rule.

16. **HARD G vs SOFT G:** (follows the same basic rule as the hard and soft c in #15)
Most of the time, the letter g makes the hard g sound as in goat, green, and glue.

● However, when a g is followed by an e, the g says “j” (the soft g sound)
➢ George, germ, cage, gel, huge, merge, plunge, gerbil, rage, cage, change.
● When a g is followed by an “i” or a “y” the g also says “j” as in giant, gypsy, magic, and gym.

Suggested Books
➢ Sage the Mage

17. **What’s that smell? EW!!!!!** Few, jewelry, stew, new, brew.

18. **-ed endings:** Mr. Ed is a time traveler. He adds -ed to words to take them back in time (making them past tense!) When reading words with -ed at the end, it is often helpful to read the root word first, without the –ed ending. When -ed is at the end of a word, it makes different sounds depending on the last letter of the root word.
➢ If the root word ends in d or t, then the –ed actually says the man’s name, ED! Mr. Ed really likes the letters d and t, and when he sees d and t, he gets really excited and says his name, "Ed."
➢ wanted, hunted, ended, rented, mended, carded.

You can ask, “What is the letter just before the -ed?”

Mr. Ed doesn't really like any of the other letters, so he just makes a "d" or "t" sound, like he doesn't care, when the root word does NOT end in d or t.

● So when a word does not end in t or d, then the –ed makes a small d or t sound.
➢ Asked, nailed, zoomed, walked, billed, jumped.

Suggested Books
➢ Nora Gaydos advanced books
➢ Phonic Books: The Bobcat Hunted, Planted in Space (in the Dandelion Non-Fiction Series)

19. **Oi and oy both say, OY!**
➢ Ahoy, toy, boy, soy, royal
➢ boil, soil, coin, spoil

20. **Aw and Au say, AW!!** When we see a cute puppy, we say, AW!!
➢ Saw, paw, claw, yawn, raw, draw, law
➢ Fault, pause, autumn, vault, caught, taught.

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21. **– tion says SHUN!**

➢ Notion, fiction, information, nation, lotion, vacation, dictionary, direction.

➢ When there is a vowel right before the -tion, it says its name; i.e., lotion, nation (except for the vowel i, it still makes a short i sound before the -tion, as in addition).

22. **-igh says the name of the letter I** and sounds like "eye."

➢ light, bright, sight, might, fight, right, sigh, high.

23. **When a word has an ending, such as -ing, -ed or -s, try covering up the ending** and read the word without the ending to figure it out.

➢ Buzzing, jumping, ending, coaxing, heating, boiling, slurping, training.

24. **Bossy R strikes again!** When an r follows the letter w, the r makes the w silent! In all words that start with wr, you only hear the sound of the bossy r!

➢ as in write, wrong, wrist, and wring.

25. **When is a word with one vowel, not a short vowel sound word?**

Answer: When it's a one-syllable word with a vowel at the end!

➢ he, she, we, me, no, be, so

26. **When does the letter y act like a vowel?**

The letter Y likes to pretend to be a vowel by making the sound of the name of I and E.

- ➢ When the letter Y is at the end of a one-syllable word, it sounds like an I saying its' name.
  - ➢ shy, ply, try, fly, my, cry, by
- ➢ When a y is in the middle of a word, it can say the name of the letter I or the short I sound (gym, style)
- ➢ When a y is at the end of a multi-syllable word, it usually says the name of the letter E (jelly, candy, messy, happy)
- ➢ When a y follows the letter a, it follows the vowel team rule and says the name of the letter a (hay, play, may)
- ➢ When a y follows the letter o, it says oy (see #19)

27. **CIA (shh!) & TIA (shh!):**

➢ When you see cia or tia in a word, think about the Central Intelligence Agency which is super secret, and you say, SHH! when you see those letters together.

➢ Examples: special, crucial, martial, partial, initial, facial, commercial.

28. **Heart Words:** (Also called sight words, red words)

When a word, or part of a word does not follow a reading rule, we call it a Heart Word, because you need to learn the parts of the word that do not follow the rule by heart.

- ➢ For example, the word, 'said.' The s and the d follow the rules, but the ai makes the short e sound so we would draw a heart under the ai.
- ➢ The heart words need extra love because they do not follow the rules! You have to learn them by heart!

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