

# 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)
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.

### Nora Gaydos Books:

Level 1 Playful Pals, Level 1 Animal Antics, Level 1 Big Fun

**Short a:** Fat Cat, Rat Naps, Rat and Cat

**Short e:** A Bed for Pets, Wet Legs, Hen and Elk

**Short i:** Pig Sits, Pig Jigs,

**Short o:** Hot Dog, Fox Hops, Dog and Fox

**Short u:** Bug on a Rug, Rub a Dub Cub, Cub and Pug,

### Mixed Short Vowels: Level 1 Clever Critters

The Hot Yak, The Big Cub, The Wet Pup, The Fox Begg, The Pet Bat, The Bed Bugs.

**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).

**Nora Gaydos Books:**

**Level 1 Playful Pals, Level 1 Animal Antics, Level 1 Big Fun**

Short a: The Plant, Crab Trap,

Short e: Egg Legs, The Red Hens, The Best Pets

Short i: Drips and Spills, Fish Gift,

Short o: Hop, Frog, Hop!, Frog Cops,

Short u: A Trunk for Buck, Stuck Duck, Duck and Skunk

Mixed Short Vowels: The Bed Bugs, the Skunk Jogs.

**Level 2 Rhyme Time (these books are more challenging)**

Short a: The Black Sack, Stan the Man

Short e: The Best Nest, Tent for Rent

Short i: Bring in the King

Short o: Knock the Block, Spot and Dot

Short u: Dunk the Skunk, Bad Luck Buck

**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

**Nora Gaydos Books:**

Level 1 Big Fun: The Slim Chimps, The Tan Chimp, The Sloth Sniffs, the Moth Rocks

Level 1 Clever Critters: The Fox Begg

Level 2 Rhyme Time: Slick Chick, Dunk the Skunk, Bad Luck Buck

Level 3 On the Go!: Bad Luck, Thick Slush,

**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.

### **Nora Gaydos Books:**

Level 2 Amazing Animals: Ape Date, A Pike Glides, Mule Music, The Mice Kiss

Level 2 Snack Attack: Whale Tale, Ape Shake, Mice on Ice

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!”

➤ bean, boat, rain, cue, sprain, suit, claim, greet, bloat.

**Nora Gaydos Books:** Time for Toast, Five Pies, Mule on a Cruise, A Sweet Treat, Toad's Lost Roast, Three for Tea, Floating Goat, Whoa Foal, Speeding Seal

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.

**Nora Gaydos Books:** Mort and Sport, Car Sparks

These next three bossy r/vowel combinations all make the same sound- ER!!

➤ **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

➤ **UR** as in hurt or turn

➤ **IR** as in bird or sir

**Nora Gaydos Books:** Swirl and Twirl, The Big Winner, Kurt Surfs

## 9. **BIG WORDS**

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

If you see two of the same letter in a word, break it up there:

➤ but-ter, bat-ter, col-lect, cot-ton, big-ger

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.

**Nora Gaydos Books: Level 4 Let's Play:** The Tennis Game, Frank and Link, The Campsite

## 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.

➤ Queen, quit, quite.

## 11. KN

When the letter n follows a k, the K kicks the n and then the n turns around and tells the K, "NO- you can not talk!"

➤ 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.

➤ Sound, ground, out, spout, mouth.

Ow sometimes says the name of the letter O

➤ Snow, know, grow, crow, throw.

Nora Gaydos Books: The Brown Sloth, Slow the Boat

## 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 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 #16)**

- 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.

**17. What’s that smell? EW!!!!**

Few, jewelry, stew, new, brew.

**Nora Gaydos Book Level 3, On the Go!: The Wind Blew**

**18. -ed endings (it’s helpful to read the word without the –ed first)  
When -ed is at the end of a word, it makes two different sounds:**

- if the word ends in d or t, then the –ed actually says the man’s name, ED!
  - wanted, hunted, ended, rented, mended, carded.
- If the word does **not** end in t or d, then the –ed makes just a small d or t sound.  
Caked, nailed, zoomed, walked, billed, jumped.

**Nora Gaydos Book Level 2: Sheep Mess, Snake Dance**

**Nora Gaydos Book Level 4 Let’s Play: Rock Climbing**

**19. Oi and oy both say, OY!**

- Ahoy, toy, boy, soy, royal
- boil, soil, coin, spoil

**Nora Gaydos Book: Oh Boy Roy**

**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.

**Nora Gaydos Book: Dawn Draws**

**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; ie, 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.

**Nora Gaydos Book:** What a Sight!

**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!

As in: he, she, we, me, no, be, so