

# LESSON PLAN GUIDE

PictureBook English Reading Series — Phonics

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<b>Category</b>	Phonics	<b>Title</b>	Phonics Book 13 – Sunday Menu
<b>Ages</b>	4-7	<b>Theme</b>	Long Vowel Pairs — ai, ay, ee, ea, ey, ie, oa, ow, ui

## INTRODUCTION OF THE BOOK

In this book, children practise long vowel sounds made by two vowels together — when two vowels appear side by side, only the first vowel is pronounced, and it says its alphabet name while the second stays silent. This book introduces nine vowel pair patterns: ai, ay, ee, ea, ey, ie, oa, ow, and ui.

Through six playful stories about families deciding what to eat on Sunday, children encounter long vowel words in a fun, food-filled context full of surprises and laughter. The stories include a wonderful twist — leaving out the word 'and' turns a delicious meal into a very silly dish!

## LONG VOWEL PAIR PATTERNS

Pattern	Examples	Pattern	Examples	Pattern	Examples
<b>ai</b>	rain, tail, snail	<b>ee</b>	tree, feet, green	<b>oa</b>	boat, toast, road
<b>ay</b>	day, play, crayon	<b>ea</b>	eat, beach, tea	<b>ow</b>	show, bowl, snow
<b>ey</b>	honey, key, monkey	<b>ie</b>	pie, tie, field	<b>ui</b>	fruit, juice, suit

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

*Children will be able to:*

- Understand that when two vowels appear together, the first vowel says its alphabet name
- Recognise and read nine long vowel pair patterns — ai, ay, ee, ea, ey, ie, oa, ow, ui
- Read long vowel words in a story context with growing confidence
- Identify and read common sight words — a, on, of, some, love, have
- Complete a Ladder Game matching quiz using long vowel words from the stories

## LEARNING ACTIVITIES

### 1. Introduce the vowel pair rule

Before reading, introduce the key rule in a memorable way: 'When two vowels go walking, the first one does the talking!' Explain that the first vowel says its alphabet name — its long sound — while the second vowel stays silent. For example: in 'rain', the 'a' says /ay/ and the 'i' is silent. Practise a few examples from the table above before opening the book.

## 2. Ask about favourite foods first

Before reading each story, ask your child: 'What is your favourite food?' and 'What would you like to eat on Sunday?' This personal connection makes the food vocabulary feel immediately relevant and motivates children to read each family's menu with genuine curiosity.

## 3. Spot the silly mix-up

As you read, point out the funny twist in each story — leaving out 'and' turns a delicious combination into a silly dish. For example: 'pancake and grape juice' is yummy, but 'pancake juice' is yucky! Ask your child: 'What went wrong?' This comprehension activity also reinforces the important role of the word 'and' in English sentences.

## 4. Practise sight words before reading

Before starting each story, practise the six sight words: a, on, of, some, love, and have. Note that 'love' and 'have' are the silent e exceptions from Book 12 — use this as a revision opportunity. Recognising these words instantly will make reading each story much smoother.

## 5. Point to pictures and connect meaning

Use the illustrations to help your child understand what each family is eating. Ask: 'Does that look delicious or disgusting?' and 'Which family has the best Sunday menu?' This builds reading comprehension alongside phonics skills in a fun, opinionated way!

## 6. Complete the Ladder Game and re-read

Encourage your child to complete the Ladder Game quiz, then re-read all six stories. Each re-reading builds fluency with the long vowel pair patterns and helps children encounter the vocabulary in multiple contexts.

## FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

Play the Vowel Pair Treasure Hunt. Give your child a simple book, magazine, or food packaging and ask them to find as many vowel pair words as they can — circling ai, ay, ee, ea, oa, and other patterns. Write all the words they find in a Vowel Pair notebook. Then create your own silly Sunday Menu together — what would happen if you mixed up two foods without 'and'? The sillier the better!

Try the fun online learning activities for this book on our website!

[Click here to try the online learning activities](#)

## TEACHER'S NOTES AND TIPS

The 'when two vowels go walking, the first one does the talking' rule is one of the most widely used phonics mnemonics in English teaching — it is memorable and broadly accurate, though not without exceptions. The nine patterns in this book cover the most common long vowel pairs children will encounter in everyday reading. Note that 'ow' and 'ey' can sometimes make different sounds (cow, they), but these exceptions are best introduced later. The food theme is particularly effective because food vocabulary is highly motivating for young learners and connects immediately to real life. The 'missing and' twist is a genuinely funny comprehension hook that children remember long after the lesson.