

# LESSON PLAN GUIDE

PictureBook English Reading Series — Phonics

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<b>Category</b>	Phonics	<b>Title</b>	Phonics Book 20 – Trick or Treat Night
<b>Ages</b>	4-7	<b>Theme</b>	Silent Letter Words — kn, wr, gh, tch, mb, lm, lk

## INTRODUCTION OF THE BOOK

Welcome to the final book in the Phonics Reading Series! In this Halloween-themed story, seven children go trick-or-treating in their neighbourhood dressed as a ghost, a knight, a skeleton, a monster, a witch, a mummy, and a pumpkin. Through seven short, fun episodes, children encounter the most important silent letter patterns in English.

Silent letters are one of the last great mysteries of English phonics — and this book tackles them head-on with a theme children absolutely love. By the end of this book, your child will have completed the entire phonics journey from individual consonant sounds all the way to the most complex spelling patterns in English. What an achievement to celebrate! 🍷

## SILENT LETTER PATTERNS REFERENCE

Pattern	Silent	Words in this book	Tip
<b>kn-</b>	<b>k</b>	knee, know, knife, knight	<i>k is always silent before n</i>
<b>wr-</b>	<b>w</b>	write, wrong, wrist	<i>w is always silent before r</i>
<b>-gh</b>	<b>gh</b>	night, might, neighborhood, knight, light, delight, bright, eight, frighten	<i>gh is silent after a vowel</i>
<b>-tch</b>	<b>t</b>	witch	<i>t is silent in -tch pattern</i>
<b>-mb</b>	<b>b</b>	bomb	<i>b is silent after m at end</i>
<b>-lm</b>	<b>l</b>	palm	<i>l is silent before m</i>
<b>-lk</b>	<b>l</b>	walk, talk	<i>l is silent before k</i>
<b>-ghtning</b>	<b>gh</b>	lightning	<i>gh silent in this cluster</i>

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Children will be able to:

- Understand why some letters are silent in English words
- Recognise and read words with silent kn-, wr-, -gh, -tch, -mb, -lm, and -lk patterns
- Group words by their silent letter pattern
- Read longer, more complex sentences with silent letter words confidently
- Complete a word search using silent letter words from the story

## LEARNING ACTIVITIES

### 1. Show why silent letters exist

Before reading, ask your child to try saying 'knock', 'knife', 'know', and 'knight' with a hard /k/ sound at the start. They will quickly discover how awkward it sounds! Then explain: 'That is why the k is silent — English kept the spelling but dropped the sound to make the word easier to say.' This simple demonstration instantly makes silent letters feel logical rather than confusing.

### 2. Spend extra time on the introductory page

Each episode begins with the same introduction, changing only the costume word. This repeated structure is intentional — work through it carefully with your child the first time, then encourage them to read it more and more independently with each new episode. By the final episode, your child will feel genuinely proud of reading these longer, trickier sentences with confidence.

### 3. Group words by silent letter pattern

Use the reference table above to group the silent letter words by pattern before reading. Show your child the patterns one group at a time: kn- words, wr- words, -gh words, and so on. Children love spotting similarities — once they see the pattern, they can apply it to any new word they encounter.

### 4. Complete the word search

After reading the full story, find all the silent letter words in the word search at the back of the book. Practise saying each word aloud as it is found. Then try the Speed Game — how fast can your child say all the words? Cheer for every personal best!

### 5. Read again and again

The Halloween theme and episodic structure make this story a joy to re-read. Encourage your child to read it repeatedly until all the silent letter words feel completely natural and automatic.

## FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

Play a Silent Letter Detective game. Give your child a simple text — a page from a book, a food label, a comic — and ask them to find as many silent letter words as possible. Circle every one they find and say it aloud. How many can they find in five minutes? This activity shows children that silent letters are everywhere in English — not just in phonics books — and builds the habit of noticing spelling patterns in real reading.

### **Congratulations — your child has completed all 20 books in the Phonics Reading Series!**

*From individual consonant sounds all the way to silent letters — that is a complete phonics journey. What an incredible achievement to celebrate together!*

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

Silent letters are a fascinating window into the history of the English language — many were once pronounced and simply fell silent over centuries. While this historical context is too complex for young learners, framing silent letters as 'letters that used to speak but now stay quiet' gives children a sense of wonder rather than frustration. The Halloween theme is brilliantly chosen for this topic — ghost, knight, witch, and night are all high-frequency Halloween words that happen to be packed with silent letters. This book brings the entire phonics series to a satisfying and memorable close. Children who

can read this book have truly mastered the core phonics patterns of English — a foundation they will build on for life.