

LESSON PLAN GUIDE

PictureBook English Reading Series — Phonics

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Category	Phonics	Title	Phonics Book 9 – But I Am Not
Ages	4-7	Theme	Short Vowel CVC Words + Repetitive Story Pattern

INTRODUCTION OF THE BOOK

In this book, children continue building confidence with short vowel CVC words through a delightful story about a boy named Ben and his six pets. Ben expresses his feelings using CVC adjective words, and each pet responds with an opposite feeling — creating a fun, repetitive pattern that makes the story both predictable and entertaining.

The repeating 'Ben is ~! But I'm not ~!' structure is a powerful reading tool — once children grasp the pattern, they can anticipate each page and read with increasing fluency and confidence. This is a wonderful follow-up to Book 8 that reinforces all five short vowel sounds in a fresh, engaging context.

STORY PATTERN

Ben says...	His pet responds...
"Ben is [adjective CVC word]!"	"But I'm not [opposite CVC word]!"

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Children will be able to:

- Decode and read CVC words containing all five short vowel sounds
- Recognise and use the repetitive sentence pattern — 'Ben is ~!' and 'But I'm not ~!'
- Understand the concept of opposite feelings through CVC adjective words
- Recognise and read common sight words — the, on, oh, what
- Complete a Ladder Game matching quiz using CVC words from the story

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

1. Look at the illustrations first

Before reading any words, encourage your child to look carefully at each illustration and describe what they see. Ask: 'How does Ben look?' and 'What does his pet think?' The pictures support understanding of every sentence and help children connect the story to the words naturally.

2. Notice and use the repeating pattern

Point out the repeating structure early in the book: 'Ben is ~!' is always followed by a pet saying 'But I'm not ~!' Once your child understands the pattern, encourage them to predict what the pet

will say before turning the page. This builds reading confidence and makes the story feel like a game.

3. Sound out and decode each sentence

Be patient as your child sounds out each CVC word. Encourage them to blend carefully and praise every word they decode successfully. The repetitive pattern means each new page feels a little easier than the last — fluency builds naturally as the story progresses.

4. Help with sight words

This story contains four words that cannot be easily decoded using short vowel rules: 'the', 'on', 'oh', and 'what'. When your child hesitates at these words, simply say the word for them and move on. These high-frequency sight words will be reinforced through repeated reading over time.

5. Point to pictures and connect meaning

After each page, help your child connect the words to the illustrations. Ask: 'Which pet said that?' and 'What is the opposite of what Ben felt?' This strengthens both comprehension and phonics skills and helps children understand the meaning behind the CVC adjective words.

6. Read again and again

The fun, repetitive pattern and the charming characters make this story a pleasure to re-read. Encourage your child to read it repeatedly until they can read it smoothly and confidently from start to finish — and perhaps even from memory!

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

Play the Opposite Feelings game. Say a CVC feeling word — for example: 'sad' — and ask your child to think of an opposite feeling word. Then make sentences together: 'Ben is sad! But his dog is glad!' Encourage your child to act out each feeling as they say the word. This playful activity reinforces both the CVC vocabulary and the concept of opposites in a memorable, physical way.

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 repetitive sentence structure in this book is a deliberate and highly effective scaffold for emerging readers — it reduces the cognitive load of decoding by making each new page partially predictable. This is sometimes called a 'patterned text' approach, and it is one of the most research-supported methods for building early reading fluency. The four sight words — the, on, oh, what — are among the most common words in English, so exposure here is valuable even though they cannot yet be decoded phonetically. Point them out as 'special words we just need to know' rather than treating them as obstacles.