

\* Please complete and return  
by Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> for 3 gold bars.

Dear Family:

Is your child having a lot of difficulty reading and spelling? If so, please make an appointment to see me because slow and inaccurate reading of words are the best predictors of a possible reading difficulty.

For the next two weeks, I will teach the concept of a **closed syllable**. A closed syllable ends in a consonant and only has one vowel. The vowel in a closed syllable is short, as in the word "**math**" or "**cat**." The recognition of this word structure will be key as we continue with the program.

To mark a closed syllable, your child has learned to **scoop** or **underline** the word, put a **c** under the scoop to indicate "closed" and a **breve** (  $\bar{\quad}$  ) over the vowel to indicate it is short.

c  $\bar{a}$  t      or      m  $\bar{a}$  t h  
c                                      c

Even though all the words have been closed syllables, every once in a while ask, "**Is this word a closed syllable?**" and, "**Why?**"

I will also teach these vowel teams using the Vowel Teams poster: **ai, ay, ee, ea, ey, oi** and **oy**. Vowel teams are introduced for reference when students are reading throughout the day. These sounds will be learned in more depth for both reading and spelling in Level 2. In the meantime, we will practice the sounds during our Drills Sounds/Warm Up activity in class.

Let me know if you have any concerns.

**Your child's last Unit Test score in  
phonics was: \_\_\_\_\_%**





## Homework Guide

Review **closed syllables** with your child during the next 2 weeks.

### Follow These 5 Steps:

1. Dictate the word and have your child echo the word.
2. Have your child tap out the sounds. Do not tap trick words (in bold).
3. Have your child tell you the letters that go with those sounds.
4. Have your child write the letters. It is helpful if you say the letters as your child writes them.
5. Ask your child to point out the closed syllables in each sentence. (See Answer Key).

### WEEK 1

Dictate the words and sentence to your child following the 5 steps listed above.

On Monday Dictate	<b>Review Words</b>	→	pill	hush	chins
On Tuesday Dictate	<b>Review Words</b>	→	crash	fluffs	snug
On Wednesday Dictate	<b>Trick Words</b>	→	<b>say</b>	<b>says</b>	<b>would</b>
On Thursday Dictate	<b>Sentence</b>	→	Bob had <b>the</b> last mint.		

On  
pg.  
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### WEEK 2

Dictate the words and sentence to your child following the 5 steps listed above.

On Monday Dictate	<b>Review Words</b>	→	fuss	shrubs	drops
On Tuesday Dictate	<b>Review Words</b>	→	lamp	munch	flags
On Wednesday Dictate	<b>Trick Words</b>	→	<b>see</b>	<b>each</b>	<b>between</b>
On Thursday Dictate	<b>Sentence</b>	→	Pass <b>the</b> small block to Beth.		

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### Answer Key

**WEEK 1 Sentence Closed Syllables - Bob, had, last, mint**

**WEEK 2 Sentence Closed Syllables - pass, small, block, Beth**

Please complete and return.

UNIT  
9

WEEK 1



### Do the "Closed Syllable Search" Activity

\* Find and circle all the closed syllables. Cross out any syllable if it is not a closed syllable.

spin

crank

ask

no

grab

so

sing

grass

I

lump

smell

tail

pink

eat

snap



#### Answer Key

Cross out the words **no**, **so**, **I**, **tail** and **eat**. Circle all other words.

Please complete and return.



Do the "Closed Syllable Search and Mark" Activity

\* Have your child read the words. Cross out any word that is not a closed syllable. Mark up the closed syllable words. Then write the closed syllable words on the lines provided.

Example: ~~boat~~      bāg      stēps

clock

step

trash

winks

three

at

boat

chills

toe

dash

hi

sick

\_\_\_\_\_

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\* Answer Key

Closed syllables: **clock, step, trash, winks, at, chills, dash, sick.**

WEEK 1

say

says

WEEK 2

see

between

each



**Cut words into flashcards.** 1. Each night, help your child **read** all Trick Words from previous units, as well as these. 2. Have your child **trace** each new Trick Word with his or her finger and **spell** it aloud; and 3. Cover up the Trick Word and have your child write it with his or her finger on the table while naming each letter.

\* Please complete and return.

**Writing Grid** for Word and Sentence Homework

**Review Words**

1 2

3

**Current Words**

1 2

**Trick Words**

3 1

2 3

**Sentence**

1