DID YOU KNOW MOST WORDS THAT BEGIN WITH WR HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH TWISTING? THE W IS SILENT. ONLY THE /R/ SOUND IS PRONOUNCED.

WREATH  WRENCH  WRAP

STRUCTURED LITERACY INSTRUCTION: TEACHING THE RHYME AND THE REASON

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MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
Did you know that the position of a letter in a word can predict its sound? For example, when the letter a follows the sound /w/, it is pronounced /o/.

**WATCH**

**SQUASH**

**WASP**

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Did you know that many words with **tw** have something to do with 2? Sometimes the **w** is silent; sometimes it is pronounced.

**TWIN**

**TWICE**

**BETWEEN**

**TWO**

**TWIST**

**TWINE**

**ENTWINE**

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Teaching the Rhyme and the Reason

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Did you know that words can’t end with \textcolor{red}{v} in our standard English spelling system? So, that’s why a silent \textcolor{blue}{e} was added to words like these:

\textcolor{red}{I HAVE TO GIVE YOU CREDIT!}\n\textcolor{red}{YOU DID SOLVE THE MYSTERY!}\n\textcolor{red}{AN ACTIVE CURIOSITY WILL SERVE YOU WELL!}

\textsc{structured literacy instruction:}\n\textsc{teaching the rhyme and the reason}
Uhhhh, what's a schwa?
In unstressed syllables, vowels may make the /u/ sound. That's a schwa /ə/.

banana /ə/ balloon

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Did you know there is a difference between a rime and a rhyme? Think of rhyme as what you hear, and rime as what you see and hear.

perfect
children

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Did you know that or makes the /er/ sound after a w?

WORM
WORD
WORDS

/er/

WORK

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Did you know there is a reliable way to pronounce suffix **-ed**?

- When the base word ends in a voiced sound, like yell: `-ed = /d/`
- When the base word ends in an unvoiced sound, like talk: `-ed = /t/`
- When the base word ends in a **t** or **d**, like shout: `-ed = /e//d/`

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Did you know that spoken sounds can be *voiced* and unvoiced? Your vocal cords vibrate for *voiced* sounds like /v/, but not for unvoiced sounds like /f/.

**VOICED**
/b/
/j/
/z/

**UNVOICED**
/p/
/ch/
/s/

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Did you know that long ago when books were copied by scribes, the \textit{u} was often changed to \textit{o} when it was next to \textit{m}, \textit{n}, \textit{v}, or \textit{w}? That made it easier to read and left us with some unexpected sounds.

\begin{align*}
\text{luve} & \quad \text{love} \\
\text{uven} & \quad \text{oven} \\
\text{munth} & \quad \text{month} \\
\text{wun} & \quad \text{won}
\end{align*}

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Did you know these words are all related to the word one?

ALONE
all one

1

ONLY
like one

NONE
not one

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Did you know that word study including etymology (origin and history of words) supports decoding, spelling, vocabulary, and comprehension?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>Origin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>check</td>
<td>/ch/</td>
<td>Old English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chef</td>
<td>/sh/</td>
<td>French</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>school</td>
<td>/k/</td>
<td>Greek</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Teaching the rhyme and the reason

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Did you know that word study including **morphology** (meaningful word parts such as affixes) supports decoding, spelling, vocabulary, grammar, and comprehension?

**UNDENIABLE**

deny (v.) = to refuse

**un-** = not

**-able**

change y to i when adding vowel suffix

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Did you know that when $y$ is used as a vowel in the middle of a word, it is usually of Greek origin?

$y = /ɪ/$

- gym
- syntax
- synonym

$y = /ɨ/$

- rhyme
- hyena
- cycle

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Did you know that both letters in combination *gh* were pronounced in the past? Hundreds of years ago, sounds of the letters were dropped or altered in spoken language, but the spelling remained the same.

**Words ending in gh = /f/**
- laugh
- cough
- rough
- enough

**Words beginning in gh = /g/**
- ghost
- ghastly
- ghetto
- gherkin

**Words with silent gh**
- high
- right
- daughter
- through

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Did you know that some prefixes change spelling when added to base words? ‘Chameleon’ prefixes change their spelling to be pleasing to the ear (euphony).

\[
in-, \text{ il-, im-, ir-} = \text{not innumerable, illegal, immature, irregular}
\]

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Did you know words spelling /s/ with \textcolor{red}{sc} are from Latin?

\textcolor{red}{sc}ience
\textcolor{red}{sc}ipline
\textcolor{red}{sc}ent
\textcolor{red}{sc}le

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Did you know that both letters used to be pronounced in words beginning with **kn** & **gn**? Awkward! The sound changed, but the spelling didn’t. Try “spelling pronunciation” to help teach these patterns (& they’re fun to say).

```
k - nock
g - nat
```
```
k - nee
```
```
k - nuckle
```
```
g - narl
g - nash
```

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Did you know that a pangram is a sentence that contains all letters of the alphabet? It's a fun way to assess handwriting (letter formation).

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

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