

# Ancient Achievements

Symbol-Coded Answer Key



A Demme Learning Publication

## Symbol-Coded Answer Key

Sometimes a word has overlapping chunks. For example, a vowel chunk may overlap with a Bossy *r* chunk (*heard*), or a consonant chunk may overlap with an ending (*really*). In the answer key, we have tried to remain consistent with the focus of each lesson. In lessons with multiple chunks, we marked vowel chunks before Bossy *r* chunks, but Bossy *r* chunks before consonant chunks.

If the student chooses a different chunking pattern than the one marked in the answer key, please do not consider it incorrect. Instead, take a moment to talk about the word and the overlap of chunks. You might ask the student which letter pattern he thinks would be most helpful for him to remember and let him mark that one. Remember that the goal is to create a visual memory for non-phonetic words.

Vowel chunks		Tricky <i>y</i> Guy	
Consonant chunks		Silent letters	
Bossy <i>r</i> chunks		Endings	

### 1 A–E: Vowel Chunks

The Cave of Lascaux is one of the most famous caves in the world. One day four French teenagers were exploring. When the boys eased into a hidden cave, they were shocked! It was painted! Bison, deer, horses, cows, and bulls seemed to leap across the cave walls and ceilings. Some pictures showed people hunting animals. Thousands of years before, ancient people had painted these pictures. They had used minerals to make paints. They left behind a visual treasure.

Word Count: 79

Vowel Chunks: 26

## 2 A–E: Vowel Chunks

An airplane was flying over the German countryside near Goseck. The pilot saw a large circle in the wheat fields below. People had noticed similar circles before. Their purpose was a mystery. A group of young archeologists studied the Goseck Circle. They found four circles inside each other. One was a mound, and one was a ditch. Two of them were once marked with wooden fences. The gates in the fences lined up with the sun on certain days of the year. The circles may have helped people keep track of the seasons.

Word Count: 93      Vowel Chunks: 26

## 3 A–E: Consonant Chunks

Thousands of years ago, the Sumerians created a system of writing. It is called cuneiform. That's an odd name, but it actually makes sense. The name comes from the Latin word *cuneus*. It means wedge. The Sumerians used a wedge-shaped writing tool. They pressed this tool into damp clay tablets. Then the tablets were baked in the scorching sun. Writing was not the quick and easy process it is today. Some tablets lasted a long time. As a result, we know more about how people lived long ago.

Word Count: 88      Consonant Chunks: 27

#### 4 A-E: Consonant Chunks

The ancient Chinese had a secret. A person who shared the secret with others might be killed. This hidden knowledge started with a moth and a tree. Each moth laid eggs that produced silkworms. Each silkworm ate mulberry leaves. The worm produced a long, thin thread. The thread formed a cocoon. Women learned to harvest the cocoons at just the right time. They wove the threads into fine silk. For centuries, the Chinese guarded this secret. They traded their precious silk for other valuable products.

Word Count: 85    Consonant Chunks: 38

#### 5 A-E: Vowel and Consonant Chunks

Ancient Egyptians believed it was important not to let a body decay after death. Rich people preserved bodies with great care. First, the brain was removed and discarded as worthless. Some organs were saved in jars. The heart was left in the body. To Egyptians, the heart was the center of reason. They washed the body and packed it in salts to dry. Weeks later, they wrapped it in cloth. Finally, they placed this mummy in a special coffin. The coffin was placed inside one or more larger coffins.

Word Count: 89    Vowel Chunks: 18    Consonant Chunks: 26

**6 A-E: Vowel and Consonant Chunks**

“Time laughs at all things, but the pyramids laugh at time.”  
 That old saying seems true. Some pyramids have lasted so long they must be laughing! The Great Pyramid in Egypt was built thousands of years ago. Many other famous buildings are gone, but the Great Pyramid remains. It is massive. Its base covers 13 acres. It contains more than two million limestone and granite blocks. Some of the blocks weigh over two tons. It was built to house the pharaoh’s body forever.

Word Count: 83    Vowel Chunks: 21    Consonant Chunks: 21

**7 A-E: Bossy r Chunks**

The first rubber balls were made in Central America. People learned how to gather the sap of the rubber tree. They mixed the sap with the juice of the morning glory vine. When the rubber hardened, it could be used to make many things. Rubber balls were used for games. Many years later, explorers found some of these balls. However, the exact rules of the games are still a mystery.

Word Count: 70    Bossy r Chunks: 21

**8 A-E: Bossy r Chunks**

The Greeks told stories about a war with Troy. After fighting for ten years, both sides were tired of the war. The Greeks made a clever plan. They built an enormous wooden horse. Their best warriors hid inside. The Greeks wheeled the horse to the gates of Troy and pretended to sail away. The people of Troy thought it was a gift. They wheeled the Trojan horse into their city. That was a major blunder! During the night, the Greek warriors slipped out of the Trojan horse and conquered Troy. The story of the Trojan War is still told today.

Word Count: 100    Bossy r Chunks: 26

**9 A-E: Vowel, Consonant, and Bossy r Chunks**

The Phoenicians lived near the sea. They built sturdy ships and sailed around the ancient world trading goods. Their ships carried olive oil and cedar wood to other ports. They sold purple dye and metalwork. As they sailed, they spread their alphabet. It used letters instead of pictures. The Greeks borrowed the alphabet and made some changes. The Romans changed it even more. A few letters in our alphabet still remind us of these older letters.

Word Count: 76    Vowel Chunks: 24    Consonant Chunks: 26    Bossy r Chunks: 16

**10 A-E: Vowel, Consonant, and Bossy r Chunks**

Ancient Greece was made up of city-states. People were fiercely loyal to their city-state. They were often at war with other city-states. Once a year they called a truce. Men gathered to compete in foot races. Every four years they met in Olympia for special events. These early Olympics grew to include sports such as boxing and wrestling. Later, events with horses were added. Women were allowed to compete in those events. The winners brought honor to their city-states.

Word Count: 79    Vowel Chunks: 20    Consonant Chunks: 19    Bossy r Chunks: 14

**11 A-E: Tricky y Guy**

A story from long ago tells about a king who married a woman from a far country. The woman became homesick for her own country. She missed the beauty of its green hills and mountains. The king's country was extremely hot, flat, and dry. The king decided to build his wife a garden as high as a mountain. Workers used bricks and stones to build it. They added terraces filled with soil, trees, and flowers. Storytellers called the king's gift the Hanging Gardens of Babylon. Ruins of gardens have been found in dry places.

Word Count: 94    Tricky y Guy: 10

**12 A–E: Endings**

China was often attacked by tribes living to the north. One king built a stone wall even before China was an empire. The first Chinese emperor forced his people to build a wall. They mixed sand, gravel, and clay. This mixture was then packed into place. Wall building continued for many centuries. The walls usually didn't stop enemies. However, they were helpful in slowing down an army. The most famous wall is called the Great Wall of China. You can still see parts of this wall winding over hills and valleys.

**Word Count: 91**    **Endings: 15**

**13 A–E: Silent Letters**

Lighthouses have guided ships for centuries. One famous lighthouse was built at Alexandria, Egypt. It was about 400 feet high. Its purpose was to help ships find the harbor. What type of light shone in this lighthouse thousands of years ago? Fire! Light from this fire guided ships at night. Some people wrote that smoke could be seen during the day. Others believe that a huge mirror reflected the sun during the day. This lighthouse was a beacon to ships and a symbol of Alexandria.

**Word Count: 85**    **Silent Letters: 17**

14 A–E: Vowel, Consonant, and Bossy *r* Chunks; Tricky *y* Guy; Endings; Silent Letters

Thousands of years ago, the people of Athens tried something new. They didn't want to be ruled by one person or family. They created a new form of government. Citizens met often to discuss and debate. They made the laws. They also served in office. Only free men over 18 were citizens. Our word democracy comes from two Greek words. Demos means the common people of a country. Kratos means rule. In a democracy, the people rule.

Word Count: 72    Vowel Chunks: 20    Consonant Chunks: 14    Bossy *r* Chunks: 9

Tricky *y* Guy: 5    Endings: 5    Silent Letters: 13

(Note: The student may have chosen to mark the *-ly* in *family* instead of the *y*. The *ing* in *something* is part of the base word rather than an ending. Some students may identify the *tw* in *two* as a blend, in which case the *w* would not be marked as silent.)

15 A–E: Vowel, Consonant, and Bossy *r* Chunks; Tricky *y* Guy; Endings; Silent Letters

Chariot races were popular in ancient Greece. Horses burst from the starting gates. Men standing in chariots whipped their horses fiercely. The frenzy began! Fans cheered wildly for their favorite teams. Hooves thundered. Whips cracked. Dust rose thickly from the racetrack. At the turns, chariots often crashed into each other or into the side walls. Sometimes teams ran over the wrecked chariots. This kind of racing was a very risky sport!

Word Count: 71    Vowel Chunks: 14    Consonant Chunks: 28    Bossy *r* Chunks: 18

Tricky *y* Guy: 3    Endings: 18    Silent Letters: 9

16 A–E: Vowel, Consonant, and Bossy *r* Chunks; Tricky *y* Guy; Endings; Silent Letters

The Roman Empire grew in size and power over many centuries. It's no wonder! Its large army was a fighting machine. Soldiers were well trained and well organized. As they conquered more and more people, they acquired more and more land. The army built a system of roads throughout the vast empire. This helped soldiers travel quickly. They preferred to build straight roads. After all, marching around curves took more time! Roman roads were well built. Some of them lasted longer than the Empire.

Word Count: 84    Vowel Chunks: 21    Consonant Chunks: 24    Bossy *r* Chunks: 26

Tricky *y* Guy: 4    Endings: 11    Silent Letters: 16

17 A–E: Vowel, Consonant, and Bossy *r* Chunks; Tricky *y* Guy; Endings; Silent Letters

Two thousand years ago in the Philippines, some people faced a challenge. How could they farm the steep mountainsides where they lived? They planned and worked. They built walls of mud and stone. They created terraces along the sides of the mountains. A system of bamboo pipes was used to carry water down from the forest on top of the mountain. At first they grew a plant called taro. Later, each terrace became a rice paddy. With vision and hard work, they met the challenge of the mountain.

Word Count: 88    Vowel Chunks: 28    Consonant Chunks: 29    Bossy *r* Chunks: 13

Tricky *y* Guy: 3    Endings: 12    Silent Letters: 11

**18 A–E: Vowel, Consonant, and Bossy r Chunks; Tricky y Guy; Endings; Silent Letters**

Some of the world's treasures have been found by accident. One example is the Dead Sea Scrolls. A young man was tending his goats near the rugged shores of the Dead Sea. He noticed one goat was missing. As he searched the rocky terrain, he entered a cave. There he found clay jars with ancient scrolls inside. The scrolls were copies of many old books. Some of them were old copies of parts of the Hebrew Bible. Scholars believe these long-lost scrolls were hidden about 1900 years before they were found.

Word Count: 91    Vowel Chunks: 25    Consonant Chunks: 24    Bossy r Chunks: 14  
Tricky y Guy: 3    Endings: 8    Silent Letters: 17

**19 A–C: Vowel, Consonant, and Bossy r Chunks**

The Roman Empire had a civil war. There were three emperors in one year! Finally, an army general became emperor. He wanted to keep the people happy. That way they would not want to fight again. He ordered the Colosseum to be built. This building was a very large arena. It was built with concrete and stone. There were many arches for beauty and strength. The places where the emperor and nobles sat were decorated with marble. The ruins of the Colosseum still stand in the middle of Rome.

Word Count: 89    Vowel Chunks: 15    Consonant Chunks: 25    Bossy r Chunks: 25

### 19 D–E: Tricky y Guy, Endings, Silent Letters

The Roman Empire had a civil war. There were three emperors in one year! Finally, an army general became emperor. He wanted to keep the people happy. That way they would not want to fight again. He ordered the Colosseum to be built. This building was a very large arena. It was built with concrete and stone. There were many arches for beauty and strength. The places where the emperor and nobles sat were decorated with marble. The ruins of the Colosseum still stand in the middle of Rome.

Word Count: 89    Tricky y Guy: 5    Endings: 8    Silent Letters: 17

### 20 A–C: Vowel, Consonant, and Bossy r Chunks

The Chinese were the first people to print books. Their language uses thousands of characters instead of a simple alphabet. For many years they carved each page into a wooden block. Later, each character was carved from clay. The characters were baked so they would harden. Next they were fastened onto iron plates. A page was printed from each plate. Thankfully the clay characters could be used over and over! The process was a challenge. Still, it was easier than copying books by hand.

Word Count: 84    Vowel Chunks: 20    Consonant Chunks: 27    Bossy r Chunks: 21

**20 D–E: Tricky y Guy, Endings, Silent Letters**

The Chinese were the first people to print books. Their language uses thousands of characters instead of a simple alphabet. For many years they carved each page into a wooden block. Later, each character was carved from clay. The characters were baked so they would harden. Next they were fastened onto iron plates. A page was printed from each plate. Thankfully the clay characters could be used over and over! The process was a challenge. Still, it was easier than copying books by hand.

Word Count: 84    Tricky y Guy: 3    Endings: 11    Silent Letters: 13

**21 A–C: Vowel, Consonant, and Bossy r Chunks**

“Ready, aim, throw!” Before gunpowder and cannons were invented, armies used other machines to attack enemies from a distance. Some weapons stored tension in ropes. When the ropes were released, objects were hurled through the air. One weapon shot bolts. These were like arrows but were as big as spears. A different weapon hurled stones and fire over city walls. Later machines were built that could hurl stones as big as cars into castles.

Word Count: 74    Vowel Chunks: 17    Consonant Chunks: 17    Bossy r Chunks: 20

**21 D–E: Tricky y Guy, Endings, Silent Letters**

“Ready, aim, throw!” Before gunpowder and cannons were invented, armies used other machines to attack enemies from a distance. Some weapons stored tension in ropes. When the ropes were released, objects were hurled through the air. One weapon shot bolts. These were like arrows but were as big as spears. A different weapon hurled stones and fire over city walls. Later machines were built that could hurl stones as big as cars into castles.

Word Count: 74    Tricky y Guy: 2    Endings: 15    Silent Letters: 15

**22 A–C: Vowel, Consonant, and Bossy r Chunks**

Timbuktu is a desert city in Africa. Camels carried salt from mines to the city. People traded the salt as well as gold and grain. One year the emperor traveled to Egypt. He spent a great deal of gold. People decided Timbuktu was very rich! Stories about the city also made it sound very mysterious. Scholars knew that the city had another treasure. It had libraries of handwritten books. People visited the city just to study these books.

Word Count: 78    Vowel Chunks: 17    Consonant Chunks: 15    Bossy r Chunks: 12

## 22 D–E: Tricky y Guy, Endings, Silent Letters

Timbuktu is a desert city in Africa. Camels carried salt from mines to the city. People traded the salt as well as gold and grain. One year the emperor traveled to Egypt. He spent a great deal of gold. People decided Timbuktu was very rich! Stories about the city also made it sound very mysterious. Scholars knew that the city had another treasure. It had libraries of handwritten books. People visited the city just to study these books.

Word Count: 78    Tricky y Guy: 10    Endings: 8    Silent Letters: 7

## 23 A–C: Vowel, Consonant, and Bossy r Chunks

Minstrels entertained people by singing ballads and retelling stories. The legends of King Arthur were popular. One story tells about a sword stuck in a stone. Whoever pulled the sword from the stone was the rightful king. Many noblemen had already tried and failed. Young Arthur effortlessly removed the sword. Immediately he was crowned king. He reigned with the help of the Knights of the Round Table. King Arthur might not have been a real person, but the stories are still loved.

Word Count: 82    Vowel Chunks: 15    Consonant Chunks: 28    Bossy r Chunks: 14

(Note: The *ing* in *king* is part of the word rather than an ending. The vowel chunk in *whoever* was not marked because *whoever* is a compound word made up of two separate words. If your student marked the *oe* chunk, discuss it but do not mark it wrong.)

**23 D–E: Tricky y Guy, Endings, Silent Letters**

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Word Count: 82    Tricky y Guy: 4    Endings: 15    Silent Letters: 13

**24 A–C: Vowel, Consonant, and Bossy r Chunks**

Can you imagine trying to do math without the number zero? Some ancient people used columns to show place value. They wrote a special mark when a column was empty. It kept people from reading the wrong number. Then people in India began to use a symbol as a number that meant “none.” Travelers brought this useful new number elsewhere. The idea of zero spread across the world. It opened the door to many new ideas in math.

Word Count: 78    Vowel Chunks: 20    Consonant Chunks: 18    Bossy r Chunks: 10

## 24 D–E: Tricky y Guy, Endings, Silent Letters

Can you imagine **try**ing to do math without the number zero? Some ancient people used **col**umns to show place value. They wrote a special mark when a column was empty. It kept people from reading the wrong number. Then people in India began to use a **sym**bol as a number that meant “none.” Travelers brought this **use**ful new number elsewhere. The idea of zero spread across the world. It opened the door to many new ideas in math.

Word Count: 78    **Tricky y Guy:** 4    **Endings:** 5    **Silent Letters:** 14

## 25 A–E: Vowel, Consonant, and Bossy r Chunks; Tricky y Guy; Endings; Silent Letters

The Vikings lived **by** the **North** Sea. They became **exp**ert shipbuilders. For two centuries, they used their longships to raid the lands **ar**ound them. The design of the ships made them ideal for the job. They could be used in **ver**y shallow water, so the rivers soon became **high**ways to places far from the coastline. **Ver**y thin hulls made the ships lightweight and **easy** to maneuver. A crew of **war**riors used oars to propel the ship. Sometimes a sail was used as well. Some of the Vikings also made their homes in the lands they had **raid**ed.

Word Count: 97    **Vowel Chunks:** 25    **Consonant Chunks:** 35    **Bossy r Chunks:** 14

**Tricky y Guy:** 4    **Endings:** 9    **Silent Letters:** 10

(Note: The *ing* in *Vikings* is part of the word rather than an ending. However, do not consider it wrong if your student marked it.)

26 A–E: Vowel, Consonant, and Bossy *r* Chunks; Tricky *y* Guy; Endings; Silent Letters

When Charlemagne became king, life was difficult. People used most of their energy to grow food and keep safe from enemies. The king thought that books and learning were important. He created places where books could be copied and saved. He started schools where people could learn to read and write. He even tried to learn to read and write for himself. The schools also taught other subjects such as arithmetic and astronomy. Some of the king's ideas about education are still popular today.

Word Count: 84    Vowel Chunks: 27    Consonant Chunks: 21    Bossy *r* Chunks: 12  
Tricky *y* Guy: 2    Endings: 6    Silent Letters: 16

27 A–E: Vowel, Consonant, and Bossy *r* Chunks; Tricky *y* Guy; Endings; Silent Letters

Imagine being on the scene when gunpowder was first discovered. According to old reports, some Chinese men were mixing different substances. They were trying to create a mixture that would prolong life. As they heated their mixture, it began to burn. Suddenly there was an explosion. What a shock! The men were caught off guard. Their hands and faces were badly burned. The place where they were working burned to the ground. It probably didn't take them long to realize their discovery would never prolong life.

Word Count: 86    Vowel Chunks: 16    Consonant Chunks: 24    Bossy *r* Chunks: 21  
Tricky *y* Guy: 2    Endings: 14    Silent Letters: 22  
(Note: Your student may have marked the *ei* vowel chunk in *being* instead of the ending. Also, some students may hear the *sc* in *scene* as a blend, so they would not mark the *c* as silent.)

28 A-E: Vowel, Consonant, and Bossy *r* Chunks; Tricky *y* Guy; Endings; Silent Letters

Most buildings are made from many pieces. Can you imagine a building made from just one block of stone? If you travel to Lalibela in Ethiopia, you will see some very old churches. They are carved out of solid rock. Some of them were hewn into the side of a mountain. Others were made by cutting straight down into the rock from the top of a hill. First the outside of the building was cut from the rock. Then the inside was hollowed out. Windows and decorations were also carved. The buildings are about 900 years old. They are still used today.

Word Count: 102    Vowel Chunks: 27    Consonant Chunks: 26    Bossy *r* Chunks: 14

Tricky *y* Guy: 3    Endings: 11    Silent Letters: 18

29 A-E: Vowel, Consonant, and Bossy *r* Chunks; Tricky *y* Guy; Endings; Silent Letters

During the Middle Ages, knights kept improving their armor. Eventually, they went into battle dressed from head to toe in heavy metal suits. Even their horses were covered in metal armor. This caused a problem. On the battlefield all the knights looked similar. Who was an ally? Who was an enemy? It was hard to tell the difference! Each family designed a unique coat of arms. The knights of that family painted this coat of arms on their armor. A father passed the family coat of arms down to his sons. The problem was solved!

Word Count: 95    Vowel Chunks: 18    Consonant Chunks: 34    Bossy *r* Chunks: 17

Tricky *y* Guy: 2    Endings: 17    Silent Letters: 6

(Note: For *eventually* and *ally*, your student may have chosen to mark the *ll* as a consonant chunk and the *y* as Tricky *y* Guy.)

## 30 A–E: Vowel, Consonant, and Bossy r Chunks; Tricky y Guy; Endings; Silent Letters

Does the thought of leeches make you shudder? Leeches are a kind of worm that feeds on blood from other animals. For centuries, physicians believed that some diseases were caused by having too much blood. They often used leeches as a remedy. The leeches attached themselves to a patient's skin. Then they drew blood out of the veins. Leeches produce a substance that prevents blood from clotting. As a result, the blood kept flowing. The leeches kept filling up with blood until they could not hold any more.

Word Count: 88    Vowel Chunks: 31    Consonant Chunks: 31    Bossy r Chunks: 8

Tricky y Guy: 4    Endings: 16    Silent Letters: 9

## 31 A–E: Vowel, Consonant, and Bossy r Chunks; Tricky y Guy; Endings; Silent Letters

Have you ever heard of Robin Hood? Stories say that he was an outlaw who stole from the rich to help the poor. Robin Hood may only be a legend, but the type of bow he used in the stories was real. The Welsh longbow was a powerful weapon. Drawing the bowstring required a lot of strength. Men needed to practice a long time before they could shoot quickly and accurately. King Edward the Third wanted skilled English archers. He said that every man had to practice with his longbow on Sundays and holidays.

Word Count: 94    Vowel Chunks: 26    Consonant Chunks: 24    Bossy r Chunks: 11

Tricky y Guy: 2    Endings: 10    Silent Letters: 9

## 32 A-E: Vowel, Consonant, and Bossy r Chunks; Tricky y Guy; Endings; Silent Letters

Why is the Leaning Tower of Pisa so famous? It seems to defy gravity. The building has been leaning for over 800 years. The foundation was not built deeply enough. The soil under it settled unevenly. Years ago people stopped ringing the bells in the tower. Scientists thought the vibrations would make the tower fall. Recent work strengthened the tower while keeping the famous lean. Now the bells are rung again. Visitors can climb nearly 300 steps to the top.

Word Count: 80    Vowel Chunks: 29    Consonant Chunks: 23    Bossy r Chunks: 9  
Tricky y Guy: 3    Endings: 11    Silent Letters: 7

## 33 A-E: Vowel, Consonant, and Bossy r Chunks; Tricky y Guy; Endings; Silent Letters

Different people have recorded information in different ways. Some etched pictures. Some groups of people drew symbols. Some used characters or alphabets to write words. The Incas had a unique system for recording numbers. They tied knots on strings. Different colored strings were attached to a base to keep them organized. Three different types of knots stood for ones, tens, and hundreds. The knotted strings were called quipus. They were used to keep track of data such as work done and taxes paid. Many things about the quipus are still a mystery.

Word Count: 92    Vowel Chunks: 15    Consonant Chunks: 29    Bossy r Chunks: 23  
Tricky y Guy: 6    Endings: 14    Silent Letters: 14

## 34 A–E: Vowel, Consonant, and Bossy r Chunks; Tricky y Guy; Endings; Silent Letters

King John thought that kings were above the law. He taxed the English people heavily. He seized any land that he wanted. He arrested people who disagreed with him. In short, he did whatever he felt like doing. Powerful noblemen grew angry about having a tyrant for their king. Finally they acted. They forced the king to accept the Magna Carta, or Great Charter. This document guaranteed certain rights to free men. King John did not keep the agreement, but the idea of freedom did not die.

Word Count: 87    Vowel Chunks: 23    Consonant Chunks: 21    Bossy r Chunks: 12  
Tricky y Guy: 3    Endings: 11    Silent Letters: 8

## 35 A–E: Vowel, Consonant, and Bossy r Chunks; Tricky y Guy; Endings; Silent Letters

When Marco Polo was a teenager, he left Venice with his father and uncle. Marco and the others traveled east, first by boat and then by land. They traveled all the way to China. For two decades they crisscrossed Asia. They spent a great deal of time visiting the court of the Chinese emperor. When Marco Polo returned, he told his story to a friend. His friend wrote the adventures in a book. The book was popular, but the stories sounded like a fantasy to most people.

Word Count: 87    Vowel Chunks: 18    Consonant Chunks: 22    Bossy r Chunks: 15  
Tricky y Guy: 4    Endings: 8    Silent Letters: 8

**36 A-E: Vowel, Consonant, and Bossy r Chunks; Tricky y Guy; Endings; Silent Letters**

Centuries ago, a group of Aztecs settled in a valley in central Mexico. They built one of their cities on an island. The swampy land was gradually dried to make more room. Land was also needed to produce food. Garden islands were created. Farmers fenced in part of the shallow lake bed and filled the area with soil. Willow trees were planted at the corners to help hold the soil in place. Many crops grew well on the rich soil of the new islands.

**Word Count:** 84    **Vowel Chunks:** 22    **Consonant Chunks:** 18    **Bossy r Chunks:** 11

**Tricky y Guy:** 2    **Endings:** 7    **Silent Letters:** 11