

## 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

Colonial **ia** children liked having fun as much as **you** do. Of **course**, **they** didn't have **video** games or **movies**. **They** **found** many other **ways** to have a **good** time. **They** **played** tag, hopscotch, and hide and **seek**. **They** rolled **hoops**, shot marbles, and **beat** drums. **They** **played** with dolls and **tea** sets. A **group** **could** **play** **rounders**, a game something like baseball. Colonial **ia** children worked hard. **They** also **found** many **ways** to **play**.

Vowel Chunks 28

**2 A-E: Vowel Chunks**

A frail little slave girl was sold to the Wheatley family. They named her Phillis after the slave ship that had brought her to Boston. Slaves were not allowed to go to school. The Wheatleys taught Phillis to read and write. She learned very quickly. As a teenager, Phillis Wheatley began writing poems. She was the first African American poet to have her poems printed.

Vowel Chunks 19

**3 A-E: Consonant Chunks**

Benjamin Franklin loved swimming. He wanted to swim even faster. He shaped two pieces of thin wood into ovals. He cut a hole in each for his thumb. He may have gotten the idea from amphibians like frogs that have webbed feet. Ben swam much faster with these wooden fins, but he stopped using them. They made his wrists tired. Franklin had many other great ideas!

Consonant Chunks 18

#### 4 A-E: Consonant Chunks

In colonial times, people used **quill** pens to **write**. A **quill** is **the** **hollow** **shaft** inside a **feather**. **The** tip of **the** **feather** is cut to form a point. **Then** **the** **shaft** is filled with **ink**. Learning to **write** with a **quill** pen takes time and practice. After every few words, **the** pen runs out of ink. **Then** you must **refill** it from an **inkwell**. **The** ballpoint pens we have today are **much** easier to use!

Consonant Chunks 28

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

As a **young** **boy**, Eli **Whitney** loved to tinker. He loved to **see** **how** things worked. **When** he was older, he invented a cotton gin. With **the** turn of a crank, **steel** **teeth** grabbed **the** fibers of cotton. **The** **teeth** pulled the fibers **through** holes and left **the** **seeds** behind. Before **this**, **people** had to separate **the** **seeds** by hand. With **the** gin, cotton **could** be produced faster. **Soon** cotton became **the** **main** crop of **the** **South**.

Vowel Chunks 16 Consonant Chunks 25

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

In times past, building a barn by hand was too much work for one family. So they had a barn raising. People from all around would gather at a farm. There might be 100 men working together. Women cooked and served meals. Children helped in small ways. In just a day or two, they could build a large barn! It was hard work, but people had a chance to see and help each other.

Vowel Chunks 17 Consonant Chunks 13

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

It took Patrick a while to figure out what kind of work to do. He tried farming, but his farm had poor soil. He started a store, but that did not go well. Finally he became a lawyer. In time, he became a great speaker. He gave stirring speeches about wanting freedom from England. Patrick Henry is remembered for ending one speech with the line, "Give me liberty, or give me death!"

Bossy r Chunks 14

**8 A: Bossy r Chunks**

In 1775 David Bushnell built a one-man submarine. He called it the Turtle because of the way it looked. He used it to target enemy ships. His plan was to put a bomb on the hull of a large ship. Then he would escape through the murky water before the bomb blew up. His idea did not work very well. The Turtle is remembered as the first submarine used in a war.

Bossy r Chunks 14

(Note: The names of boats and ships are italicized in print and underlined when handwritten. You may mention this rule to your student if you wish, but keep the emphasis on spelling rather than punctuation.)

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

A few women helped fight in the Revolutionary War. Soldiers fighting battles need water. Often a woman would run back and forth from a spring. In one battle, a soldier fell to the ground. His wife, Mary Hays, dropped her pitcher. She took over firing the cannon. Over and over she loaded and fired. Suddenly a cannon ball whizzed right between her legs! It tore the bottom of her skirt, but she was not hurt. She kept on fighting.

Vowel Chunks 11 Consonant Chunks 26 Bossy r Chunks 17

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

Annie Oakley was skilled with a rifle. As a teenager, she shot game to feed her family. She sold the extra. Soon she paid off her family's debt. People noticed her shooting skill. She became a sharpshooter in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. She was only five feet tall, so she was called Little Sure Shot. She performed with her husband and set many records for shooting.

Vowel Chunks 13 Consonant Chunks 26 Bossy r Chunks 12

**11 A–E: Tricky y Guy, Endings, Silent Letters**

Samuel Morse loved painting. He painted pictures of famous people. Later in life he tried to find a faster way to send messages. He invented a telegraph. It used Morse code, a system of dots and dashes. Each letter and number had its own code. Messages that would have taken weeks to send by mail could now be sent quickly over wires.

Tricky y Guy 2 Endings 12 Silent Letters 9

## 12 A–E: Tricky y Guy, Endings, Silent Letters

Twenty thousand men spent six years building a railroad. Some started in Iowa and headed west. Others started in California and worked east. By 1869 the last spike was finally pounded into place. The East and West were linked. After that, many more railroads were built. The railroads joined every part of the country. The folk song “I’ve Been Working on the Railroad” became very popular.

Tricky y Guy 7 Endings 9 Silent Letters 9

(Note: Your student could have chosen to mark the *-ly* in *finally* as an ending, rather than marking the Tricky y Guy.)

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

Would it explode? Would it catch fire? Would it sink? Many people on the dock didn’t think the new steamboat would go anywhere. The paddle wheel churned, and smoke puffed. The steamboat began to move steadily up the Hudson River. It cruised along, passing all the other boats as though they were standing still. Robert Fulton and his partner didn’t invent the steamboat. They helped to make it practical. Before railroads, rivers were the highways of the country.

Vowel Chunks 23 Consonant Chunks 26 Bossy r Chunks 12 Tricky y Guy 3 Endings 7 Silent Letters 15

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

When it was finished, the Erie Canal linked the Hudson River to Lake Erie. Now there was a safer and cheaper way to get from New York City to the Great Lakes. Some travelers enjoyed the slow, easy pace. They liked the view from the boat's top deck. But people had to listen for the warning, "Low bridge! Everybody down!" Otherwise, they might get knocked overboard!

Vowel Chunks 18 Consonant Chunks 19 Bossy *r* Chunks 13 Tricky *y* Guy 4 Endings 7 Silent Letters 8  
(Note: The word *view* has overlapping vowel chunks. You may choose whichever one you prefer.)

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

"Step right up! Step right up! The show is about to begin!" Circuses used to perform in special buildings in big cities. In 1825 one American circus used a large canvas tent for the first time. What a great idea! Now a circus could be held in any city or town. The circus traveled in wagons from place to place. Later, P. T. Barnum began using special train cars to move the circus even farther and faster.

Vowel Chunks 12 Consonant Chunks 9 Bossy *r* Chunks 18 Tricky *y* Guy 2 Endings 6 Silent Letters 7



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

How could anyone own a person? How could some states allow slavery? Harriet Beecher Stowe believed that slavery was wrong. She knew she had to do something. She wrote stories told from a slave's point of view. The stories became a book called *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Harriet made the everyday life of slaves real to others. Many people read her book and talked about it. Her writing made a difference.

Vowel Chunks 23 Consonant Chunks 16 Bossy *r* Chunks 13 Tricky *y* Guy 5 Endings 7 Silent Letters 16  
 (Note: The title of a book is italicized in print and underlined when handwritten. You may mention this rule to your student if you wish, but keep the emphasis on spelling rather than punctuation.)

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

Alexander Graham Bell was interested in hearing and speech. His mother was deaf. His wife was deaf, too. He did experiments. He taught many students how to speak more clearly. He also enjoyed inventing. Aleck built a machine that could send sounds over wires. The telephone changed how people lived. Now they could easily talk to anyone else who had a phone.

Vowel Chunks 19 Consonant Chunks 13 Bossy *r* Chunks 7 Tricky *y* Guy 2 Endings 9 Silent Letters 12  
 (Note: If your student pronounces the *h* in *Graham*, it should not be marked as a silent letter.)

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

Tom was always curious. What makes this work? Could it be improved? He tinkered. He learned. Sometimes he failed. But he kept trying and working hard. One of his ideas was an electric light bulb that would keep working for a long time. It was a success! Thomas Edison gathered a group of scientists to work together on new inventions. Today we call this place a research lab. By the time Tom died, his group had over 1,000 patents.

Vowel Chunks 16 Consonant Chunks 13 Bossy *r* Chunks 11 Tricky *y* Guy 2 Endings 10 Silent Letters 8  
 (Note: Some students may hear the *sc* in *scientists* as a blend, in which case the *c* would not be marked as a silent letter.)

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

Before Helen Keller turned two, an illness made her blind and deaf. She was trapped in a dark and silent world. A teacher named Anne Sullivan came to help. Anne knew that if Helen could communicate, her life would be better. Using her fingers, Anne spelled words in Helen's palm. But Helen didn't understand. One day Anne spelled W-A-T-E-R. Helen felt water pour over her hands. Finally Helen understood! A new world was opened up to her.

Vowel Chunks 9 Consonant Chunks 18 Bossy *r* Chunks 20  
 (Note: The student may not have marked the letters *E* and *R* in *W-A-T-E-R* as a Bossy *r* Chunk.)

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

Before Helen Keller turned two, an illness made her blind and deaf. She was trapped in a dark and silent world. A teacher named Anne Sullivan came to help. Anne knew that if Helen could communicate, her life would be better. Using her fingers, Anne spelled words in Helen's palm. But Helen didn't understand. One day Anne spelled W-A-T-E-R. Helen felt water pour over her hands. Finally Helen understood! A new world was opened up to her.

Tricky y Guy 1 Endings 7 Silent Letters 14

(Notes: Some students may identify the *tw* in *two* as a blend, in which case the *w* would not be marked as silent. Also, some people do pronounce the *l* in *palm* and similar words. In addition, your student could have chosen to mark the *-ly* in *finally* as an ending, rather than marking the Tricky y Guy.)

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

As he gulped a large breath of air, Harry knew he could do this. He was hanging upside down, his feet securely locked in place. Slowly he was lowered into a glass tank filled with water. The tank was then locked shut. The audience stared in disbelief. Harry had escaped from jail cells and locked boxes. Could he escape from this? The audience grew terrified. At last Harry Houdini emerged from the tank. The audience went wild!

Vowel Chunks 20 Consonant Chunks 18 Bossy r Chunks 10

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

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Tricky y Guy 3 Endings 14 Silent Letters 10

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

Henry Ford had built a good, solid car that people loved. But his Model T cost \$850! That was more than most people could afford. He needed to cut the price without cutting quality. Then his factory started using an assembly line. As a car was built, it moved from one worker to the next. Each worker did a certain job. This saved time and money. Seven years later the Model T cost only \$360.

Vowel Chunks 12 Consonant Chunks 14 Bossy r Chunks 13

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

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Tricky y Guy 3 Endings 9 Silent Letters 7

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

In 1920 the first American radio station went on the air. Soon there were stations across the country. They aired news and ball games. They played music and shows. In 1938 Orson Welles read a radio play called “The War of the Worlds.” The story was about an attack from outer space. Before he began, he told listeners it was not real. But many people tuned in late. They thought they were hearing real news! It took quite a while to calm everyone down.

Vowel Chunks 27 Consonant Chunks 22 Bossy r Chunks 13

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

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Tricky y Guy 4 Endings 7 Silent Letters 12

(Note: Some people do pronounce the *l* in *calm*.)

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

Farmers in the midwestern plains plowed the native grasslands to plant wheat. They did not know the grass kept the soil healthy and in place. For eight years, there was not enough rain. Nothing grew. The dry soil became like powder. Strong winds blew the soil away in massive dust storms. People called the storms “black blizzards.” During the Dust Bowl of the 1930s, many families left the plains to find hope elsewhere.

Vowel Chunks 21 Consonant Chunks 25 Bossy r Chunks 11

(Note: Technically, the *aw* in *away* is not a vowel chunk because the letters *a* and *w* are parts of two different syllables.)

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

Farmers in the midwestern plains plowed the native grasslands to plant wheat. They did not know the grass kept the soil healthy and in place. For eight years, there was not enough rain. Nothing grew. The dry soil became like powder. Strong winds blew the soil away in massive dust storms. People called the storms “black blizzards.” During the Dust Bowl of the 1930s, many families left the plains to find hope elsewhere.

Tricky y Guy 3 Endings 5 Silent Letters 10

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

Mr. Wright wound the long rubber band. When he let go, the light wooden toy flew across the room. Orville and Wilbur stared in wonder. They played with the toy until it broke. Then they made their own. The toy sparked a lifelong interest in flying machines. Over the years, they built, tested, and modified many machines. In 1903, the Wright brothers took turns flying the first successful airplane. They didn't fly very far or high, but they flew!

Vowel Chunks 20 Consonant Chunks 30 Bossy r Chunks 14

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

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Tricky y Guy 5 Endings 10 Silent Letters 5

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

Amelia wasn't afraid to try new things. She had the courage to act on her dreams. She was the first woman pilot to fly across the Atlantic Ocean by herself. Then she tried to be the first to fly around the world. She took one person with her. Something went very wrong on that trip. No one ever found Amelia, her friend, or the plane. In her short life, Amelia Earhart inspired many women to follow their dreams.

Vowel Chunks 17 Consonant Chunks 20 Bossy r Chunks 15 Tricky y Guy 6 Endings 3 Silent Letters 6



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

In John F. Kennedy's first speech as president, he challenged Americans. He said, "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country." He thought it would be good for America if young people helped in other countries. Many young Americans agreed and joined the Peace Corps. They went and served all over the world.

Vowel Chunks 20 Consonant Chunks 13 Bossy r Chunks 12 Tricky y Guy 4 Endings 4 Silent Letters 6

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

As a girl, Sally loved science. She also loved being outdoors and active. For years Sally played tennis. She was very good. She even thought about playing tennis for a career. Instead she decided to go to college. She studied physics and English. In time, all her hard work paid off. So did her physical fitness. In 1983 Sally Ride became the first American woman in space.

Vowel Chunks 13 Consonant Chunks 20 Bossy r Chunks 11 Tricky y Guy 6 Endings 6 Silent Letters 8

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

Philo was very interested in electronics. When he was a teenager, he found a stash of science magazines. He studied them carefully. He learned that scientists were trying to make a new machine. It would use electricity to send and show pictures. He thought about it. He talked with his science teachers. One day he drew a picture on the chalkboard. It showed how a television could work. Philo Farnsworth's plan was the first idea that worked.

Vowel Chunks 21 Consonant Chunks 18 Bossy r Chunks 13 Tricky y Guy 3 Endings 9 Silent Letters 16

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

America was scared of polio. It was a disease no one knew how to stop. Every summer more people became sick. Most were children. People with polio often couldn't use their legs anymore. Some couldn't breathe without a machine. Many died. Several scientists were asked to work on the problem. Jonas Salk was a doctor. His team worked long hours in a lab. Finally they discovered a safe vaccine. The whole contry stopped to celebrate!

Vowel Chunks 18 Consonant Chunks 15 Bossy r Chunks 13 Tricky y Guy 4 Endings 6 Silent Letters 20

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

The Zamboni brothers built an indoor ice rink. It was very popular. There was one problem. As people skated, the ice became chipped and bumpy. Then four workers scraped the ice and wet it. It took an hour before people could skate again. Frank wanted to hurry the process. He invented a machine that did the same job in only fifteen minutes! It is still used on every ice rink today.

Vowel Chunks 11 Consonant Chunks 14 Bossy r Chunks 9 Tricky y Guy 4 Endings 8 Silent Letters 14

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

Dr. Silver did not know what to do with his new invention. He had been trying to make a strong glue. Instead, the glue he made was weak. He told the other workers about the new glue. He asked if they could think of any use for it. Arthur Fry listened. Later, Arthur went to choir practice. He was frustrated when the bookmarks in his music kept falling out. Suddenly he realized the new glue could be attached to paper, and the sticky note was born!

Vowel Chunks 20 Consonant Chunks 21 Bossy r Chunks 12 Tricky y Guy 4 Endings 8 Silent Letters 8

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

A terrible accident happened at the schoolhouse! Glenn's legs were very badly burned. The doctors wanted to remove them. He told his parents he did not want that. Glenn worked very hard to get well. To the doctors' surprise, he started walking again. No one thought that some day he would run in the Olympics. Glenn Cunningham set a world record for the mile run!

Vowel Chunks 6 Consonant Chunks 18 Bossy r Chunks 15 Tricky y Guy 3 Endings 8 Silent Letters 10

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

John D. Rockefeller was very wealthy. He gave away a lot of his money. He helped start several colleges. He started high schools for African Americans. He also cared about people's health. Hookworms were a big problem in the South. They made thousands of people ill. Being sick made it hard for children to learn. John started a program that helped get rid of hookworms. It made many lives better.

Vowel Chunks 14 Consonant Chunks 16 Bossy r Chunks 15 Tricky y Guy 3 Endings 8 Silent Letters 9

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

During World War 2, the whole country worked together. Many American soldiers were fighting. They needed food and clothing. People at home worked hard and saved. They could use only a certain amount of meat and sugar. They could not buy a lot of gasoline. Many women went to work. Factories made tanks and planes instead of new cars. Even children helped! They collected scrap metal and rubber.

Vowel Chunks 18 Consonant Chunks 12 Bossy r Chunks 15 Tricky y Guy 3 Endings 11 Silent Letters 9

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

In the 1950s, more people were driving cars and trucks. Busy roads went through every town. The army needed a way to get supplies from one place to another. A new highway system was built to solve these problems. These new roads had only a few places to get on and off. They went over or under all the old roads. Today, people use these highways to drive all over the country.

Vowel Chunks 19 Consonant Chunks 18 Bossy r Chunks 10 Tricky y Guy 5 Endings 4 Silent Letters 12

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

Part of the American spirit is giving to others in need. To raise money we have bake sales and car washes. We go to special concerts. We plan sports events like races. We also collect food for the hungry. We donate clothing to homeless shelters. We give money to scientists to find cures for diseases. We help each other after storms and earthquakes. What could you do to help others?

Vowel Chunks 12 Consonant Chunks 14 Bossy *r* Chunks 15 Tricky *y* Guy 1 Endings 8 Silent Letters 9