

A Bee, a Deer and a Sheep

Things to collect and words to display

bee see tree three agree

queen seen keen green

deer queer

sheep sleep keep asleep

meet street sweet

need feed

week leek

Rhymes and jingles, songs and books

Janet and Allan Ahlberg, *Peepo!*, Penguin Books, 1986

Pamela Allen, *Mr Mc Gee*, Puffin, 1987, Australia

Eric Carle, *The Tiny Seed*, Hodder and Stoughton Children's Books, 1987

Mem Fox, *Where Is the Green Sheep?*, Penguin Books, 2005, Australia

Narelle Oliver, *Baby Bilby, Where Do You Sleep?*, Thomas C. Lothian Pty Ltd, 2001

Ten Green Bottles

Reading the big book

Begin with a brainstorm

Read the text with students. Then ask them what they notice about the sound of e in the words on the page. Help students to understand that when two es are written side by side they usually make a long e sound. Remind students that when a word has two of the same letter written side by side, the word is said to have a double letter. With students, make a list of the words with double e on chart paper.

The syllable clap

After students listen to the text from the big book, they practise clapping the syllables in each sentence. Then, choose a student to secretly select a sentence. They clap the syllables making sure that the beat matches the intonation when the sentence is read aloud. The remaining students guess which sentence has been clapped.

Wonderful words

Help students to locate the speech marks in the text and discuss why these are used. Then ask for students to act out the text in the big book. Choose a narrator, a deer, a bee and a sheep. The narrator reads all of the text except for the parts in speech marks which are read by the appropriate character. Add costumes and props if time allows.

Making noise

Choose a word with double e. Tell students to say the word but to 'get stuck' on the ee sound. So queen would become 'queeeeeeeeeeeen'. Ring a bell to give students the signal to say the final sound of the word.

Letting them loose with the little books

Looks like

Remind students of the starting position for lower case es and of the direction their pencil should travel. Then they write two large lower case es on paper using a thick black pen. Next, ask students to add details using coloured markers or pencils to make their ee into a bee, a queen, a deer or a sheep.

Odd one out

Show students **Work sheet 1**. They listen as the words are read aloud. They think of each word in terms of its initial, middle and final sound. Then they work out which one has a different middle sound. They put a circle around this word.

Blending

Remind students of the sound that double e makes. Explain that when they are sounding out words, students need to blend the two es together rather than saying /e/ /e/. Have students practise breaking up sounds and then blending them together. For example say, 'Let's think about sheep. Look at the word. We can say sh...ee...p, sheep.' Students use other words from the text. Then they look at **Work sheet 2**. They read the words. Then they write each word next to its picture.

Craft

Make an ee tree. Use a dead branch or cut a tree shape from card board. Have students draw and cut out small pictures of words with ee in them. Make sure all the pictures are labelled. Hang these on the tree so that it looks a bit like a decorated Christmas tree.

