

Silly seagulls

Things to collect and words to display

sandwich	school	screw	seagull
see	seed	silly	sit
so	sun		

Rhymes and jingles, songs and books

Eric Hill, *Where's Spot?*, Puffin Books, 2003

Lucy Micklethwait, *I Spy: An Alphabet of Art*, Greenwillow, 1992

Emily Rodda, *Squeak Street*, Working Title Press, 2002

Gordon Winch, *Samantha Seagull's Sandals*, Gareth Stevens Publishers, 1988, USA

Sing a Song of Sixpence

Reading the big book

Looks like

If you have access to sand, allow students to practise making small sandcastles in the shape of the letter **s**. Alternatively, ask students to 'write' the letter **s** in the air using their pointer finger. Remind students of the starting point and of the shape of the letter. Have students practise 'writing' the letter **s** on different surfaces such as the desk, the carpet and their friend's back. Next, show students **Worksheet 1**. Explain to them that the silly seagull has stepped in some paint. As she walks around she leaves footsteps. Tell students that the seagull walks in the shape of the letter **s**. Students can write a large letter **s** that starts at the picture of the seagull and ends in the lower left corner of the page. After students have written the **s**, have them add footsteps along each side of it. Fast finishers can draw some pictures of words that start with /s/ anywhere on the page.

Starts with

Display the appropriate page from the big book. Play a game of I Spy with students using only the sound /s/. Have students find pictures and words that start with /s/.

In the alphabet

Say the alphabet aloud with students and ask them to notice where **s** lies. Have students discuss the position of **s** as being after the middle but towards the end of the alphabet. Show students the words that begin with **s** in a dictionary or telephone directory.

Recognising rhyme

Remind students that rhyming words sound the same at the end. Read the first two sentences of text with students and see if they can identify the rhyming words. Ask students to think of some more words that rhyme with song such as long, pong, dong, gong, wrong.

Letting them loose with the little books

Wonderful words

Write some innovations of the text from Silly Seagulls. Provide examples such as:

Silly snail sings a song.

Six silly snails sing along.

Seven silly snails singing in the sun.

Show students **Worksheet 2**. Ask them to complete their own silly sentences by filling in the gaps and then drawing illustrations to match. The noun students use must start with **s**. Encourage more capable students to substitute a word for 'silly' as well.

The syllable clap

Have students read each page aloud. Then have them substitute /s/ for each syllable. So, 'Silly seagull' would become 's s s'. Have students read the whole book using only the sound /s/ but remembering to keep the rhythm of the text that they used when reading the words.

Chop and change

Have students think about the word sing. Ask them to say it aloud, 'sssss- ing'. Now say to students, 'I want you to replace the /i/ with /o/. What new word can you make? That's right, its ssss- ong, song. Now replace the /o/ in song with /a/, what new word do you have? It's sang.'