



No Naps for Pals

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Grade Level: PreK-2

GRL: C **Lexile:** 160L

Subject: Phonics

Genre: Fiction

Key Idea: Develop fluency by decoding story text with words that have the short **a** sound

Standards Addressed: RF.1.3.A-B Reading: Foundational Skills, RL.1.1 Reading Literature

1. Before Reading

Make Predictions

Look at the book's cover and title. Discuss what students see and what they think the book is going to be about. Invite personal connections.

Teach Phonics Skills

Copy pages 5 and 6 of this *Teacher Note* for each student. Ask students to cut apart the picture and letter cards. Make sure students understand the sound-symbol correspondences they will read in the story.

Say consonant sounds **/k/**, **/g/**, **/l/**, **/n/**, **/p/**, **/r/**, **/s/**, and **/t/**. Ask students to hold up the corresponding letter cards **c**, **g**, **l**, **n**, **p**, **r**, **s**, and **t**.

Say the short **a** sound and ask students to repeat it after you. Say these word pairs, asking students to raise their **a** letter card when they hear the short **a** sound: *ill/Al*, *rug/rag*, *pat/pot*, *set/sat*, *lip/lap*.

Slowly say and blend the sounds in *rag*, *cap*, *gas*, *lap*, *nap*, *pat*, *rat*, *sat*, and *tag*. Ask students to raise a picture card to show the word they hear. Then, help students count and blend the sounds in each word as they use their letter cards to spell the words.

Teach High-Frequency Words

Make sure students know the high-frequency words they will find in the story. Spend extra time on irregular words, shown in **bold**, which do not follow common phonics patterns.

and	find(s)	in	no	the
be	for	is	not	will
do	has	my	our	you

Introduce the Genre

You can tell this book is fiction because it is about made-up characters and their adventures. The illustrations were drawn by an artist.

Establish a Purpose for Reading

We will read to find out why Al does not want to take a nap. We will practice reading words that have the short **a** sound.

2. During Reading

Read Together

Chorally read the story aloud together as students point to each word. Or, have students read aloud independently, using quiet voices, as you monitor. When readers have difficulty, stop and provide feedback. Help students associate letters and sounds, blend sounds to read words, and reread sentences fluently.

Check for Understanding

Ask questions about the story. Prompt students to support their answers with details from the text.

- Who is Al?
- Where does the story take place?
- Where does Sal nap?
- Does Sal want to play with Al? How do you know?
- What does Cal look like? Where does he nap?
- What is a gap?
- What does it mean to rap on something?
- Why does Al need pals?
- How do you play tag?
- At least how many pals are needed for a good game of tag?

Reread and Retell

Ask pairs to reread the story to each other. Each partner may read the whole story, or students may alternate pages. Allow time for pairs to retell the story in their own words, using the illustrations as cues. Invite partners to discuss the story and give opinions about whether they liked it.

In a whole-group follow-up, discuss and agree on the story's characters (Al, Sal, Cal, Gal), setting (alley or junkyard), and events (Al or group asks each rat to wake up). What might happen to the story if just one character, setting, or event were different?

3. After Reading

- Add words from the story to classroom word walls or word lists.
- Build fluency by reading the story again tomorrow or in a few days.
- Read more stories that feature the short **a** sound, such as *Jack at Bat* by Mac Barnett.
- Plan to read nonfiction books about rats or traditional outdoor games.

Follow-Up Lessons

- Provide short **a** words on a list or a word wall. Challenge pairs or small groups to use them to write and perform tongue twisters such as *The black bat's back*.
- Guide students in writing short **a** words from the story to complete a Word Ladder. (See page 7 of this *Teacher Note*.)
- Ask students to write and draw on a Story Sequence graphic organizer to show the order of main events in the story. (See page 8 of this *Teacher Note*.)

Writing Activities

- Dictate phrases and sentences with short **a** words for students to write and illustrate. Use the phrases and sentences shown in the book on page 22.
- Write step-by-step rules for playing tag. Illustrate with a labeled diagram.
- Write and illustrate a new event for the story that includes the cat shown on story page 5.

School-to-Home Connection

- Send home the picture and letter cards from pages 5 and 6 of this *Teacher Note* along with the book.
- Send home the Word Ladder from page 7 of this *Teacher Note* along with the book.

4. ESE/SWD

- Spend extra time teaching and reviewing sounds, letters, and high-frequency words that will appear in the story.
- Select a subset of short **a** words from the story (examples: only the character names, only the words that name sounds). Hold students accountable for reading only these words independently.
- Have students listen to an audio recording of the story prior to the whole-group lesson.
- Read each page of the text aloud and have students echo you as they point to each word.

5. ELL/ESOL

- Use visuals to represent spoken words. If needed, find photos and videos on the internet.
- Speak slowly and enunciate words clearly. Make sure to articulate each sound.
- Be mindful of your gestures and facial expressions to make sure they support understanding.
- Write words under the picture cards on page 5 of this *Teacher Note* to create a glossary for students. Encourage students to refer to it as they read and respond to the story.
- Use props and actions to demonstrate word meanings. For example, show a *rag* and act out what it means to *tap*.
- Ask students to share their background knowledge about rats, junkyards, and playing tag.
- Help Spanish, Cantonese, and Vietnamese speakers articulate the short **a** sound, as these languages do not contain the sound or contain only an approximate transfer of the sound. Model correct mouth position and ask students to copy you. Provide handheld mirrors for support.

NEW Digital Read-Alongs With Audio and Word Highlighting



Tips for Teachers

- Connect to your SMART Board or projector for teacher and student interaction.
- Read aloud together standing up.
- Highlight, underline, and circle information (e.g., sight words, phonics, vocabulary).
- For each page, have a student be in charge of pointing to each highlighted word as it is read.
- Play “I Spy” and have students find sight words, phonics patterns, vocabulary words, punctuation, etc.
- Use with ELL/SWD as a center to listen and then practice reading for fluency.
- Share with parents at home so students can practice reading.

Visit our website for our complete collection of graphic organizers:
<https://www.crabtreebooks.com/resources/graphic-organizers>

Picture Cards

Name: _____

Cut the cards apart.
Match them to words.

Date: _____



Letter Cards

Cut the cards apart.

Use the letters to build words.

Name: _____

Date: _____

a

a

a

c

g

l

n

p

r

s

s

t

Word Ladder: No Naps for Pals

Name: _____

Write a word for each clue.

Climb from the bottom to the top.

Date: _____

An old cloth.
Change one letter.

What AI does to Sal.
Change one letter.

Rat with the flower.
Add one letter.

An animal with a long tail.
Change one letter.

A friend.
Change one letter.

AI

Answers: Gal, pal, pat, rat, rag

Story Sequence

Name _____

Book title _____ Date _____

First



Next



Then



Last

