

Answer Key

Penelope is a strong PHONETIC speller — her wrong spellings sound right (kake, rane, bote, nite). The whole packet teaches the CONVENTION, not the sound. Grade production for the correct ORTHOGRAPHY, and when she misses, name the pattern ('that word uses a vowel team, not magic-e'). The trap page (Part 5) rewards her for REJECTING a correct-sounding-but-wrong spelling — a right answer there can look like refusing an obvious word. Silent letters in the figures are drawn faded on purpose.

Part 1 (page 2) • The Case Opens

- Ex 1 — long sounds (say their name): a in cake, i in bike, o in home, u in cute. Short sounds: a in cat, i in pig, o in dog, u in cup. (the check: does the vowel say its letter-name, or a short sound?)
- Ex 2 — a) cat = short b) cake = long c) rain = long d) hop = short e) boat = long f) pig = short

Part 2 (page 3) • The Magic-E

- Ex 1 (build the magic-e word) — a) hop -> hope b) cap -> cape c) kit -> kite d) cub -> cube e) pin -> pine f) tub -> tube (add a silent e; the vowel now says its name)
- Ex 2 (spell from the clue) — a) cake b) bike c) home d) five e) plate f) slide (each ends in a silent e)

Part 3 (page 4) • Two Vowels Walking

- Ex 1 (underline & write the team) — rain: ai · seat: ea · boat: oa · feet: ee · play: ay · night: igh (this last one is the SPECIAL pattern, not a vowel team — only i is a vowel; g and h are its silent helpers)
- Ex 2 (spell from the clue) — a) rain b) boat c) tree d) seat e) road f) team (each uses a vowel team, NOT a magic-e)

Part 4 (page 5) • Same Sound, Two Spellings

- Ex 1 (long-a: pick the spelling) — a) cake (a_e, consonant after) b) rain (ai, middle) c) play (ay, end of word) d) plane (a_e) e) day (ay, end) f) train (ai, middle). Rule of thumb: ay at the END of a word; ai in the MIDDLE; a_e when a consonant follows.
- Ex 2 (long-o / long-e) — a) boat (oa) b) hope (o_e) c) feet (ee) d) seat (ea) e) road (oa) f) home (o_e). Accept either ee/ea only if it spells a real word; here each clue has ONE correct spelling.

Part 5 (page 6) • The Thief's Fakes

- Ex 1 (spot the fake) — a) rane = FAKE, real: rain b) hope = REAL (leave it!) c) bote = FAKE, real: boat d) kake = FAKE, real: cake e) seat = REAL f) nite = FAKE, real: night. Note: b) and e) are the counter-traps — the correct-looking word IS correct; rewarding a kid for 'fixing' them would be wrong.
- Ex 2 (does it need a silent-e?) — a) rain = NO (vowel team already does the job) b) hop = NO if she means hop; but the clue is 'to wish' so YES -> hope c) rabbit = NO (short vowel) d) five = YES e) boat = NO (vowel team) f) plate = YES.

Part 6 (page 7) • The Final Dictation

- Ex 1 (no word bank — she spells from the clue): a) name b) kite c) tree d) coat e) light f) plane g) green h) rope. Grade for correct orthography: magic-e on name/kite/plane/rope; vowel teams on tree(ee)/coat(oa)/green(ee); light uses the special igh pattern (not a vowel team).
- Ex 2 — her own sentence. Grade for: uses at least two of the case words spelled correctly, and a capital letter + period. Any silly detective sentence counts.