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# English Main Lesson Block: The Whispering Woods

**Student:** H (Age 7)

**Framework:** Australian Steiner Curriculum Framework (Class 1/2)

**Duration:** 8 Weeks

**Lesson Philosophy:** This lesson block introduces the alphabet through the Steiner method of imaginative storytelling, art, and movement. Each letter is presented as an archetypal character or object within a continuous narrative, allowing the child to form a living connection with the symbols of language. The focus is on creative application and the beauty of language, not rote memorization.

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## Materials Needed

- A3 Main Lesson Book with onion skin paper between pages
  - Beeswax block and stick crayons (e.g., Stockmar)
  - Modeling beeswax or potter's clay
  - Watercolour paper (250gsm or higher)
  - Artist-quality watercolour paints in the three primary colours (red, yellow, blue)
  - A wide, soft paintbrush
  - A small sponge and water jar
  - A felt mat or other special surface for art/writing time
  - A small bell or chime to signal transitions
  - Natural objects related to the weekly stories (e.g., a smooth stone, a feather, a winding branch)
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## Core Learning Objectives

By the end of this 8-week block, H will be able to:

- Recognize and name all consonant and vowel sounds, connecting them to their pictorial and symbolic forms.
  - Form uppercase letters correctly and beautifully through drawing and writing practice.
  - Recount the key elements of the weekly stories, demonstrating listening comprehension.
  - Begin to blend simple consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC) words.
  - Create and illustrate a simple, original story in the Main Lesson Book.
  - Develop a reverent and joyful attitude towards language and storytelling.
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## Daily and Weekly Rhythm

A consistent rhythm is key. Each English lesson (ideally 4 days a week) should follow this pattern:

1. **Opening Verse & Song:** Begin with the same verse each day to create a quiet, focused space.
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2. **Review:** Briefly recall the story and letters from the previous day through conversation and gesture.
  3. **Storytelling:** Tell the new part of the story orally (do not read from a book). Use rich, descriptive language.
  4. **Artistic Activity:** This is the heart of the lesson. H will draw the letter's picture in the Main Lesson Book or do a related watercolour painting.
  5. **Letter Formation:** Practice the letter's form through movement (walking the shape, drawing in the air) and then writing it in the Main Lesson Book.
  6. **Closing:** End with a simple verse or by admiring the day's work.
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## Weekly Breakdown

### Week 1: The Winding Serpent and the Mighty Mountain (S, M)

**Focus: Introducing the Main Lesson Book and the world of letters.**

- **Story:** Begin the tale of the Whispering Woods, a magical place where everything is alive. We meet a shimmering, silent Serpent (S) who winds its way through the grass, and we see the great, solid Mountain (M) that watches over the woods.
- **Activities:**
  - **Day 1:** Wet-on-wet watercolour painting of the woods to create the book's title page.
  - **Day 2:** Tell the story of the Serpent. H draws a large, winding serpent in the Main Lesson Book. From its shape, you reveal the letter 'S'. Practice the 'ssss' sound.
  - **Day 3:** Tell the story of the Mountain. H draws two majestic peaks. From this picture, you reveal the letter 'M'. Practice forming M with arms.
  - **Day 4:** Practice writing 'S' and 'M' beautifully on a new page. Model the letters with beeswax.

### Week 2: The Fish and the Rushing River (F, R)

**Focus: Flowing and active consonants.**

- **Story:** In the woods, a swift River (R) rushes and roars. In its waters lives a fast, flashing Fish (F).
- **Activities:**
  - H draws the River's path and the shape of the Fish in the Main Lesson Book, discovering 'R' and 'F' within the images.
  - Use blue and green crayons to show the water's movement.
  - Practice the 'rrrr' sound like a rolling river and the soft 'fff' sound of a fish's fins.
  - Form the letters with clay.

### Week 3: The Brave King and his Tall Tower (K, T)

**Focus: Strong, straight-lined consonants.**

- **Story:** On a hill lives a kind and brave King (K) who stands strong with his arms out. He lives in a Tall Tower (T) that reaches for the sky.
  - **Activities:**
    - Draw the King, noticing how his body, leg, and outstretched arms form a 'K'.
    - Draw the Tower, seeing the 'T' in its strong vertical and horizontal lines.
    - Practice standing like the King to form a 'K' with the body.
    - Build towers with blocks, emphasizing the 'T' shape.
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## Week 4: The Bubbling Brook and the Glimmering Gem (B, G)

**Focus: Curved and enclosed consonants.**

- **Story:** A Bubbling Brook (B) flows from the mountain, with two big bubbles in its shape. Deep in the earth, a Glimmering Gem (G) holds a secret light.
- **Activities:**
  - Paint the flowing brook with its bubbles, finding the 'B'.
  - Draw the beautiful, curved Gem, finding the 'G' inside.
  - Practice the sounds 'b-b-b' and the hard 'g-g-g'.
  - Go on a nature walk to find smooth, 'G'-shaped stones.

## Week 5: The Angel of Awe (A) and the Elder Tree (E)

**Focus: Introducing the vowels as magical "singing" letters.**

- **Story:** Explain that the woods have five magical guardians—the Vowel Queens/Angels—who give voice to the consonants. Meet the Angel of Awe (A), who opens her arms and sings "Ahhh!" in wonder at the world. Meet the wise Elder Tree (E) who whispers "Ehhh" with the wind.
- **Activities:**
  - Wet-on-wet painting with golden yellow for 'A'. Let the paint form the shape of the angel.
  - Draw the Elder Tree, finding the 'E' in its trunk and three main branches.
  - Practice singing the vowel sounds, feeling how they open the mouth without being stopped by lips or teeth.

## Week 6: The Shining Ibis (I), the Open Orb (O), and the Unicorn (U)

**Focus: Completing the Vowels.**

- **Story:** Continue meeting the vowel guardians. The Shining Ibis (I) stands tall and straight, calling "Eeee". A magical golden Orb (O) floats over the woods, singing "Ohhh". A gentle Unicorn (U) puts its head down to drink, its horn pointing Up, whispering "Uhhh".
- **Activities:**
  - Draw the tall, elegant Ibis for 'I'.
  - Paint a glowing, circular Orb for 'O'.
  - Draw the Unicorn's U-shaped head and neck for 'U'.
  - Practice combining vowels and consonants. What happens when the Serpent ('S') meets the Angel ('A')? They can say "SA"!

## Week 7: Word Weaving

**Focus: Blending sounds to create simple words.**

- **Story:** The characters of the Whispering Woods begin to talk to each other! The King (K) meets the Ibis (I) and the Serpent (S) to share a KISS. The River (R) helps the Unicorn (U) and the Nymph (N - introduce as a quick story) to RUN.
- **Activities:**
  - On a new page in the Main Lesson Book, draw a small picture of the River. Beside it, help H write the word "RUN".
  - Create "word families" with rhymes (e.g., SUN, RUN, FUN).
  - Play "I Spy" with letter sounds around the house.
  - Write short words on smooth stones and use them to build sentences.

## Week 8: The Great Feast of Stories

**Focus: Creative application and celebration of learning.**

- **Story:** All the characters of the Whispering Woods gather for a great feast to celebrate. What new adventure will they have? Let H decide!
  - **Activities:**
    - Help H brainstorm a simple story using two or three of the letter-characters learned. For example, "The Fish and the Gem."
    - Over two days, H illustrates the story across a two-page spread in the Main Lesson Book.
    - With your help, H writes a simple sentence under the picture (e.g., "THE FISH MET THE GEM."). Scribe for H if needed, but encourage H to write known words.
    - On the final day, H can "read" the story to the family. Celebrate the completion of the beautiful Main Lesson Book.
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## Assessment and Differentiation

- **Assessment:** This is portfolio-based and observational. The Main Lesson Book is the primary artifact of H's learning and progress. Assess through:
  - The quality and care taken in the drawings and writing.
  - H's ability to recall the stories and connect them to the letters.
  - Verbal participation and enthusiasm.
  - Growing ability to blend sounds and recognize simple words.
- **Differentiation:** As this is a one-on-one plan, it is naturally differentiated.
  - **For support:** If H struggles with writing, focus more on the large motor movements (air drawing, walking the shape) and artistic representation. Scribe sentences while H writes the first letter or a known word. Spend more time on a single letter if needed.
  - **For extension:** If H is grasping concepts quickly, introduce lowercase letters alongside the uppercase. Create more complex words, write longer sentences, and encourage H to write an entire story independently. Introduce simple poetry and rhythmic verses to copy into the Main Lesson Book.

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