

# FIRST SOUND, LAST SOUND

## GRADES

first and second

## MATERIALS

paper

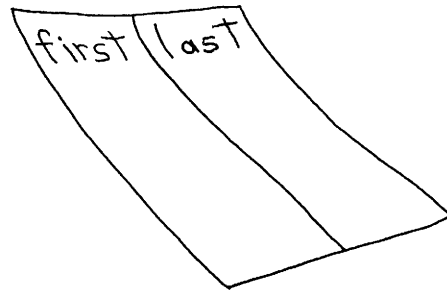
pencil

small snack (raisins or peanuts)

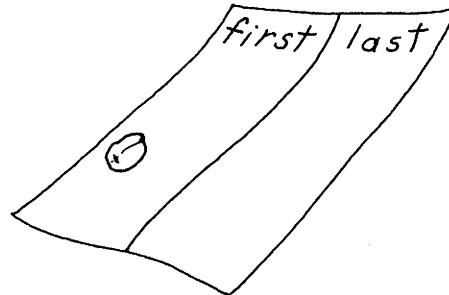
# Y

Yvonne came to her tutoring sessions directly from school. She was usually hungry, so I had peanuts, her favorite snack, ready for her. Initially, we spent this time chatting about the latest news at school. After a few weeks, however, I began experimenting with games to turn snack time into learning time. Our most successful snack game was FIRST SOUND, LAST SOUND. When we played this game, Yvonne never complained about working while snacking.

I had to prepare a FIRST SOUND, LAST SOUND game board. This was a piece of paper with a line drawn down the middle and the heading FIRST on one side and LAST on the other.



Board complete, we were ready to play. To start things off, I asked Yvonne where she heard the sound *fff* in the word *fudge*. Was it the first sound or the last sound? Instead of answering me in words, Yvonne took a peanut and placed it on the FIRST side of the game board.



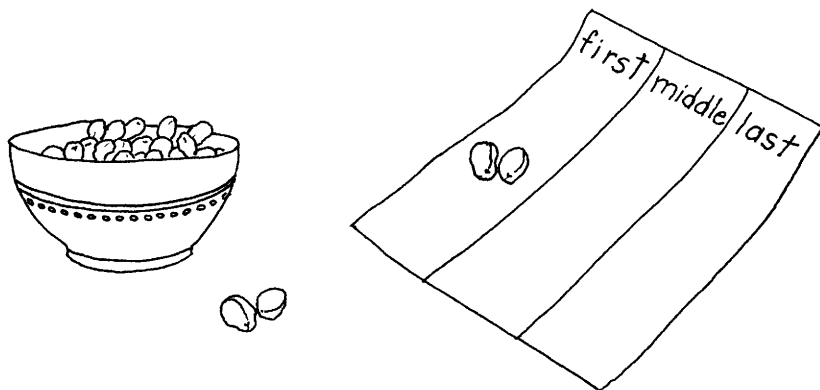
"Way to go, Yvonne," I said. "Ffff is the first sound in *fudge*. You get to eat that peanut anytime you want."

Yvonne grabbed the peanut and started to chew. "That was easy, easy, easy," she said between bites.

"Are you ready for your next word?" I asked.

Yvonne was ready, and so I asked where she heard the *ssss* sound in *snake*. She won another peanut. I asked about the *nnnn* sound in *dragon*, the *llll* sound in *hole* (it's the sound, not the spelling that counts), and the *gggg* sound in *goofy*. Unfortunately, Yvonne goofed on *goofy*. I took a peanut off the board and returned it to the bowl. I gave her a chance to reclaim the peanut, however, by finding the *www* sound in *wood*. We played for about ten minutes—or fifteen peanuts—and then went on to other work.

Eventually FIRST SOUND, LAST SOUND ceased to challenge Yvonne. She won all the peanuts easily. So I made the game harder. The new game board had three divisions: FIRST, MIDDLE, and LAST.



To get her peanut, Yvonne had to answer questions about the first sound, the last sound, and the middle sound. Where's the *tttt* sound in *tunnel*? Where's the *tttt* sound in *ghost*? Where's the *pppp* sound in *computer*? Middle sounds are tricky and the game was harder, but Yvonne was ready, so it was more fun too.

Peanuts aren't absolutely necessary, and you don't even need a game board. You can simply ask your child FIRST SOUND, LAST SOUND questions and give points for success. When your child racks up ten or perhaps fifteen points, the game ends. A game board does make the game more official, though, and peanuts make it yummier.

Here's a list of FIRST SOUND, LAST SOUND words, followed by FIRST SOUND, MIDDLE SOUND, LAST SOUND words, to get you going:

### **First Sound, Last Sound**

<i>p</i> sound in <i>pudding</i>	<i>s</i> sound in <i>mouse</i>
<i>n</i> sound in <i>nose</i>	<i>l</i> sound in <i>candle</i>
<i>f</i> sound in <i>safe</i>	<i>m</i> sound in <i>monster</i>
<i>t</i> sound in <i>pocket</i>	<i>v</i> sound in <i>stove</i>
<i>ch</i> sound in <i>child</i>	<i>v</i> sound in <i>violet</i>
<i>w</i> sound in <i>waffle</i>	<i>k</i> sound in <i>kangaroo</i>

### **First Sound, Middle Sound, Last Sound**

<i>b</i> sound in <i>notebook</i>	<i>m</i> sound in <i>morning</i>
<i>v</i> sound in <i>cover</i>	<i>n</i> sound in <i>noodles</i>
<i>ee</i> sound in <i>green</i>	<i>b</i> sound in <i>table</i>
<i>p</i> sound in <i>sharp</i>	<i>n</i> sound in <i>lemon</i>
<i>t</i> sound in <i>kitten</i>	<i>m</i> sound in <i>lemon</i>
<i>g</i> sound in <i>giggle</i> (a two-peanut word)	