SAXON
Phonics and Spelling 2

Phonetic Concepts Practiced

-ci, -ti, -si = /sh/
(efficient, patient, Persian)
ei = /ē/ (protein)
ei = /ā/ (veil)
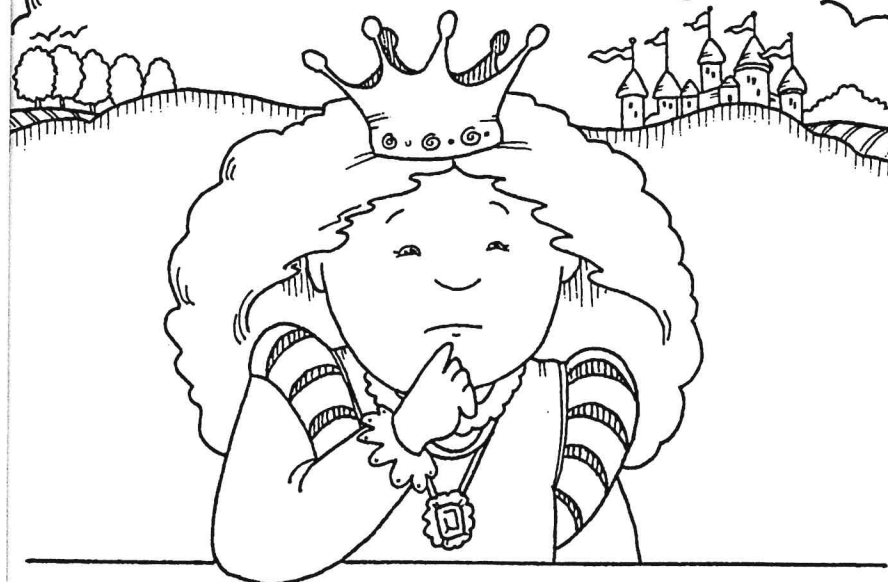ie = /ī/ (pies)
ie = /ē/ (shrieked)

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The Efficient Persian Lady

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Illustrated by Sharon Holm

There was once a beautiful princess who quit laughing. She was not sad. She felt no grief. She just could not laugh anymore.

"She must be sick!" the queen said. "Her facial expression is glacial, like ice! It's crucial that we call our efficient physician!"

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"I cannot find anything wrong," the efficient physician said. "This patient could be deficient in protein. Have her eat delicious meat pies. That should be sufficient."
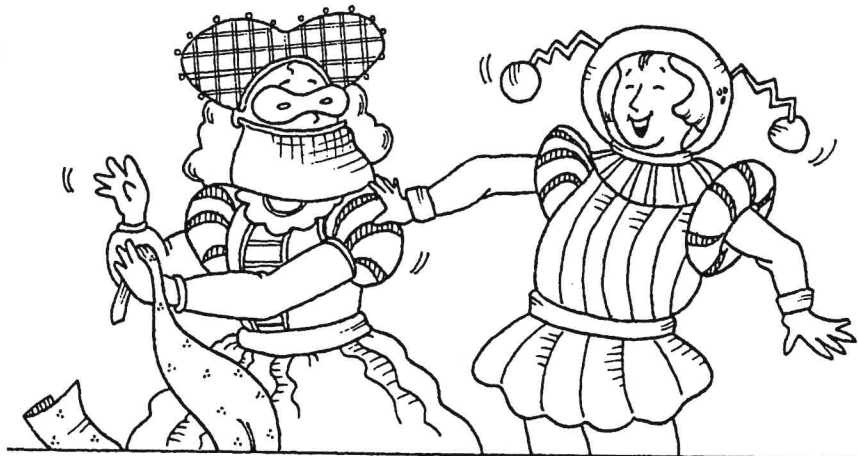
The queen vowed to check everything. Next she called an efficient optician. "This patient's eyes seem fine," the efficient optician said. "I do not think she really needs these glasses. Here's a note for your payment."

"Now we'll call our official musician," said the king. "Maybe some funny songs will help."

The official musician sang many funny songs. He even told many funny jokes. Still, the poor princess could not laugh.

"Today we'll plan something social," said the queen. "Maybe some actors can help."

The actors did many silly things. One dressed like a Martian. Another wore a mask and a veil. Still, the actors could not make the princess laugh.

Then one day, a Persian lady came by. "I am a good fix-it technician," the Persian lady said. "It is my belief that I can help your daughter. My treatment is controversial. Not everyone likes it."

"Do what you can!" shrieked the king.

"Where does the princess lie down?" asked the Persian lady.

She pulled the mattress off the bed. She put a feather mattress on the bed. Then she efficiently pulled little feathers up through the mattress.

When the princess went to sleep, she began to giggle. The feathers would tickle her! She woke up laughing.

"The patient is fine," said the Persian lady. "The cure worked!"

The End

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Understanding the Story
Questions are to be read aloud by a teacher or parent.

1. What did the princess stop doing?

2. What did the physician suggest?

3. Who offered a controversial treatment?

4. What cured the princess?

Answers: 1. laughing 2. that the princess eat meat pies 3. the Persian lady 4. the feathers in her bed that tickled her and made her laugh