



What's in the Middle?: Wheel Watching

Preparation (1 minute):

- Visit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hx_xaPHAMXY to learn the **Medial Sounds Hand Motion** for **Heggerty Phonemic Awareness** called the “rollercoaster.”
- Cue your screen to the beginning of **Episode 3: Wheel Watching** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=11ou2QUFdNs&t=325s> While you are there, please “Like” and “Subscribe” to our channel.
- Provide each student with a **Sounder & Friends™ Pictures Page** (for the end of the lesson).

Lesson (15 minutes):

1. Ask students to indicate with a “thumbs up” or a “thumbs down” if they would like to go whale watching. Briefly discuss what they would expect to see. Tell students that Sounder and her friends are going on a whale watching adventure.
2. **Play Episode 3: Wheel Watching.** Pause at 2:39. Demonstrate the rollercoaster hand motion, encouraging students to identify the medial vowel sounds in the words, whale and wheel. Invite students to notice what their mouths look and feel like when they pronounce the sounds /ay/ and /ee/. Discuss.
3. Watch the remainder of the episode.
4. Remind students of how the Sound Snatcher switched the /ay/ in whale with an /ee/ and turned the whale into a wheel. Encourage students to recall how Sounder and her friends solved the problem.
5. Tell students they are going to listen for the sounds /ay/ and /ee/ in other words. Using the rollercoaster hand motion, guide students to identify the medial sounds in the following words: hail, heel, sail, seal, tail, teal, mail, meal.
6. Provide students with a **Sounder & Friends™ Pictures Page**. For 3-4 year olds, invite students to say the words and color the pictures. For 5-7 year olds, encourage students to choose one color for the sound /ay/ and another color for the sound /ee/. (They may wish to use turquoise for /ay/ and red for /ee/, as in the episode.) Invite students to say the words, using the rollercoaster hand motion to identify the medial vowel sounds and color the picture with the color assigned to the medial vowel sound.

