Heart words: answers and notes

What your child practised: reading Year 1 tricky words (common exception words) and spotting the part that doesn't sound as its letters usually do.

Page 1 · Warm up

Any word read is a win. Try the others another day.

Page 2 · Try it together

Answers will vary. In most books **the** turns up most often.

The tricky sounds

was: a says o · said: ai says e · they: ey says ay · of: f says v · school: ch says k · friend: ie says e

Page 2 · A. The tricky part

w**as** · s**ai**d · th**ey** · **of** · s**ch**ool · fr**ie**nd

Page 3 · B. Ring the word

I **saw** a dog. · It **was** hot. · **They** are my pals. · Mum **said** yes.

Page 3 · C. Match the sound

said → **e** (bed) · was → **o** (dog)
school → **k** (kite) · you → **oo** (moon)

Challenge: No. Leo sounded out every letter, but **said** is a tricky word. The **s** and the **d** sound as expected, but the **ai** sounds like the **e** in bed, so we say "sed". He only needs to learn the **ai** part by heart.

Watch out for

- **Sounding out every letter** (reading said as "sayd" or was as "wass"). Praise it, then say: "This one has a tricky part. Let's find it."
- **Look-alike words** such as **was** and **saw**, or **the** and **they**. Run a finger under the word from left to right, and check the first letter: w for was, s for saw.
- **Hearting the wrong letters.** If the heart lands on the s of said, ask: "Does s sound as we expect? Yes, so it isn't the tricky part."

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Story time:** when you share a book, let your child read said, was and they each time they appear.
- **Finger hearts:** write a tricky word in the air or on a steamy window and draw a heart over the tricky part.
- **In the game:** Chapter 2 shows where the tricky part hides: at the start, in the middle or at the end of a word.