Katie Garner

* <https://www.thesecretstories.com/>
* Twitter - @KatieGarnerREAD
* Instagram - @TheSecretStories
* Research Synopsis - <https://www.thesecretstories.com/learn-more/research-based-phonics-program/>
* Backdoor learning
* Social-emotional learning systems
* Teach through concrete learning, not abstract learning
* Better alphabet sound - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f2LEpxXhHHE> (start at 12 mins)
* Secrets are the key!
  + <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=15Jin7zSBpA> (Thunderstorms)
  + <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cXeFBRxhq4c> (superhero vowels)

**The Secret Stories**

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**Secret Story All Long Vowels:** There are five superheroes that live in our classroom and I am probably not supposed to tell you but this one is so big that I feel I have to tell. I am going to tell you their secret. They wear a disguise and they don’t want the other letters to know who they are. They are the superhero vowels – they have the power to be able to SAY THEIR NAME. No other letter can say their own name (k never gets to say its name – they are the envy of every other letter). Because they are such a big deal, they have short and lazy disguises (short vowel sounds).

**Secret Story Short U:** Like u, she likes to pretend she is not paying attention and every time she is just waiting in class, and teacher calls on her, she says “uh…” and scratches head (like doesn’t understand). Then no one can suspect who she is – that is her short lazy costume.

**Secret Story Short E**: Superhero e puts an old lady bun on her head and her hand to her ear and says “Eh??” like she is deaf. This is her short lazy disguise.

**Secret Story Short O**– O thinks he is always sick so he goes to the doctor. He wears a mask and gloves and won’t touch anything when he is in the doctor’s office because he does not want to get sicker than her already is. He is especially worried about the stick that the doctor uses to check in his mouth because he is not sure that the doctor actually throws it away! So he will not let that stick touch anything in his mouth so he says “ah” and keeps his tongue and lips away from it (This will get them to drop jaw and lift palette to get a short o sound instead of a short u sound. We get to the same place without telling them academic terms such as “lift your soft palette”)

**Secret Story Short I** – Superhero I likes to keep his middle trim by doing exercises so he can fit into his superhero suit. His favorite exercise is to put one finger on each side of lips and turn sideways. Tilting helps him keep trim! When you put a finger on each side of your and tilt your head to the side, your mouth will look like a capital I. (They cannot do any other sound when the lips are trapped).

**Secret Story Short A** – A likes to sit around in disguise of course not in his superhero costume and eat apples. That is his very favorite food. So when you see short a, you will often see him doing this – “mime biting into an apple” (As a teacher, this will lift soft palette and get a bright a sound instead of a dark ahh sound which is not the sound of short/lazy a)

**Secret Story Y** – Y found out about the superheroes can say name AND have short and lazy disguises and he was so mad so he snuck into each closet of E and I and took one of each of their capes (which is where there superhero powers lie) and now whenever he is at the end of the word where he thinks nobody can see him, he looks around and puts on either his E or his I cape (to say E or I – Mommy, Daddy, By, July). However, if he is at the beginning of a word, he is going to do what every good line leader does and behave beautifully and do what he should (say yuh sound).

**Secret Story TH -**  T and H know they are not supposed to sit together because every time they sit together, they misbehave. Do you know what they do? They stick their tongues out at each other and go “Th”. They don’t listen very well as they are always together. Every single time they are together, they make the Th sound.

**Secret Story Ay and ey** – too cool -like Fonzi (Happy Days)

**Secret Story Au and Aw** - are totally in love and they are head over heels for each other. They have a huge crush on each other. Anytime they stand together, they are super embarrassed and put their heads down and go “Aaahhhh” (tilt head to side and wiggle). (Bring up words like Austin, Awful… to show sound/symbol connection).

**Secret Story Ow and ou** – they always play really rough with one another and they always end up saying OW! However, Superhero O is their favorite and if he ever flies above they will stop in their tracks and say “O, O, O” (They need to know that ow and ou might say OW or O)

**Secret Story SH** – SH are always in the library together. And when it gets too noisy in the library, they say SH.

**Secret Story ER, IR, & UR**: Er, Ir, and Ur, are crazy drivers and love to drive fast, especially around corners and so they say (make sound like car going fast around a corner)

**Secret Story Mamma E** – When Mamma E is at the end, she says to the vowel before, “You better say your name when I am around” She can reach right over the head of the letter before her and tap that vowel on the head to make him say his name like a proper letter. The vowel says what he supposed to when Mamma is close (kids know this to be true in real life!)

-But if Mamma is there but she is too far away (2 letters or more), she can’t make him say his name

**Secret Story Babysitter Vowels –** Sometimes Mamma E needs a break, she brings in a babysitter. The babysitter says the same things as Mamma E and can make you say your name when she is only one letter away. All vowels can be a babysitter and these babysitters mean business!! (Kids understand that when someone else is in charge, they are supposed to behave – they understand this)