Congratulations on your purchase of this Really Good Stuff® Guess the Covered Word Poster and Magnet Set—a magnetic activity to help students decode unfamiliar words by cross-checking meaning with letter-sound information using the Guess the Covered Word strategy from Patricia M. Cunningham and Dorothy P. Hall.

This Really Good Stuff® product includes:
- Guess the Covered Word Poster, Write Again® wipe-off laminate
- 45 Cover-Up Magnets
- Storage Bag for Magnets
- This Really Good Stuff® Teaching Guide

Objective
Students will know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.

Guess the Covered word is a word meaning/letter sound-check strategy from Patricia Cunningham and Dorothy Hall that teaches beginning letter sounds systematically in the context of reading. After first being introduced in Phonics They Use by Patricia M. Cunningham, it has become a frequently used strategy to help students learn to cross-check unfamiliar words by looking at onsets and thinking about what word would make sense in the sentence.

Introducing the Guess the Covered Word Poster and Magnet Set
Before students enter the classroom, use a dry erase marker to write 4 or 5 sentences on the Poster, each featuring one word that you wish the students to guess. For your first lessons using this strategy, choose words that begin with a single consonant and place them at the end of each sentence. For example, you might write:

Kelly wants a turtle.
Billy wants a bird.
LeVon wants a kitten.
Celia wants a fish.

For each word you want to cover, begin by choosing an appropriately sized Cover-Up Magnet to cover the beginning consonant(s) up to the first vowel and a separate Cover-Up Magnet to cover the rest of the word. For example, the word turtle would be covered as shown below.

Begin the lesson by reading the first sentence to the students, inserting the word blank for the covered word. Ask students to guess the covered word, reminding them that it has to make sense in the sentence. Draw students’ attention to use the length of the covered word to help them rule out words that are too short.
or too long. Write their responses on the whiteboard or a piece of chart paper next to the Poster. Be sure to point out that there might be several words that make sense in the sentence, especially if they cannot see any of the letters to help them guess.

Next, remove the onset Cover-Up Magnet on the first word and erase or cross out all of the guesses that do not start with that letter. Have students guess additional words that start with the correct letter and write them on the list. When all of the words on the guess list begin correctly and make sense in the sentence, remove the remaining Cover-Up Magnet and reveal the covered word. Once students understand the strategy, begin placing the covered word in different locations in the sentence.

Introducing Two- and Three-Letter Onsets

- Practicing Digraphs—After students have mastered all of the beginning consonants, focus on words that begin with digraphs sh, ch, wh, and th following the same steps.
- Practicing Other Two-letter/one sound Combinations—Introduce words with other two-letter/one-sound combinations such as ph, wr, kn, and qu following the same steps.
- Practicing Blends—Introduce words with blends bl, br, cl, cr, dr, fl, fr, gl, gr, pl, pr, sc, scr, sk, sl, sm. Follow the same steps for words with sn, sp, spr, st, str, sw, and tr.

Guess the Covered Word Swap Sheets

Challenge your students to create their own Guess the Covered Word sentences and swap with classmates to guess the words. Make and distribute copies of the Guess the Covered Word Swap Sheet Reproducible. Have students write four sentences each containing a covered word. Provide each student with several sticky notes. Ask the students to use the sticky notes to cover up the “mystery” word in each sentence. Allow students to use scissors to cut the sticky notes to size in order to cover up the first letter(s) to the vowel and then the rest of the word. Have students exchange their papers with classmates and write their guesses as they figure out the covered words.

Across the Curriculum

Use the Poster to make Guess the Covered Word activities that reinforce your curriculum. Label the Poster with statements from or paragraphs summarizing what students have learned in math, reading, social studies, and science lessons.

Guess the Covered Word Transfer

Transfer the Guess the Covered Word strategy from the Poster to your classroom reading materials. Use the strategy when reading big books by covering up words with sticky notes and encourage students to use their fingers to cover up words in their own reading.

Guess the Covered Word of the Day

Label the Poster with a sentence including a “covered word for the day.” It could be a new vocabulary word you wish to introduce or an enrichment word from the day’s lessons. Make copies of the Covered Word For the Day Reproducible and cut them apart. As students enter the room, challenge them to guess the covered word by filling in a reproducible. Collect the guesses and share them during your Guess the Covered Word lesson. Write the guesses on the board and then remove the onset Cover-Up Magnet. Continue the activity until you reveal the covered word for the day.
Guess the Covered Word Swap Sheet Reproducible

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Creator:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guesser:</td>
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Guesses

[Blank lines for guesses]
Covered Word for the Day Reproducible

My guess for the Covered Word of the Day is:

Name:

[Repetitive pattern]

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