Silent Letter Detectives

Listen for letters you do not hear.

2.2.B.ii "decoding words with silent letters such as knife and gnat;"

NAME _____ DATE _____

HAS A SILENT LETTER	NO SILENT LETTER
A silent letter is written in the word, but you do not hear its sound when you say the word. knock	Each letter helps spell a sound you hear in the word. cat

1 SORT

8 items

Read each word aloud to your teacher before circling SILENT or SOUNDS. Then pick two words and explain which letter is silent or how the letters make sounds.

1.	gnat	SILENT SOUNDS
2.	sun	SILENT SOUNDS
3.	knee	SILENT SOUNDS
4.	lamb	SILENT SOUNDS
5.	flag	SILENT SOUNDS
6.	milk	SILENT SOUNDS
7.	wrist	SILENT SOUNDS
8.	fish	SILENT SOUNDS

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new word for SILENT and one new word for SOUNDS.

SILENT _____

SOUNDS _____

CHALLENGE

Write a sentence with two silent-letter words. Underline each silent letter.

ANSWER KEY

Silent Letter Detectives

GRADE 2 · TEKS 2.2.B.ii

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	gnat	**SILENT**	The g is silent.
2	sun	**SOUNDS**	Each letter helps spell a sound in sun.
3	knee	**SILENT**	The k is silent.
4	lamb	**SILENT**	The b is silent.
5	flag	**SOUNDS**	Each letter helps spell a sound in flag.
6	milk	**SOUNDS**	Each letter helps spell a sound in milk.
7	wrist	**SILENT**	The w is silent.
8	fish	**SOUNDS**	Each letter helps spell a sound in fish.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **SILENT**: knit
- **SOUNDS**: map

Challenge: A gnom<u>e</u> hurt his <u>w</u>rist.

Listen to the child decode each printed word before giving feedback. For the challenge, accept a sentence with two silent-letter words and all silent letters underlined. In the sample, underline g and final e in gnome and w in wrist. The final e helps show the long o spelling but has no spoken sound of its own.