

aristocrat - PO 1

✓ Check **yes** for a word with the schwa sound, and **no** for a word that does not have the schwa sound. (The schwa sound is like the short *u* sound.)

	Yes	No
1. sand	_____	_____
2. friend	_____	_____
3. about	_____	_____
4. ribbon	_____	_____
5. bone	_____	_____
6. famous	_____	_____
7. condition	_____	_____
8. collect	_____	_____
9. listen	_____	_____
10. consistent	_____	_____

Neal Shusterman wrote a book entitled *The Schwa Was Here*. The book is about a boy whose clothes blend into the background and no one ever notices.

Why do you think the author chose that title for the book?

aristocrat – PO 2

1. Circle the word in the first paragraph with the schwa sound in the second syllable that means very bright.
2. Circle the word in the last paragraph with the schwa sound in the first syllable that means very sad.
3. Read the whole passage.

Leo Tolstoy (1828-1910)

Leo Tolstoy, the son of a Russian *aristocrat*, was born in 1828 on his family's estate near Moscow. His mother died before he was two, his father when Leo was eight. He was raised by aunts and educated by tutors. He was a brilliant child but did not do well at his studies because they did not interest him.

At 16, he entered the University of Kazan because he wanted to become a diplomat. Again, he did not do well in school. He left without graduating.

Tolstoy returned to the family estate that he had inherited. It was at this point in his life that he began to write. He decided to leave home, and he joined the army and fought in the Crimean War. Later he wrote about these experiences. Although Tolstoy was a born an *aristocrat*, he felt that the true soul of Russia lay in its peasants.

When Tolstoy was 34, he married a beautiful young girl who lived on an estate nearby. She was only 18 at the time of their marriage, and they had 13 children.

Tolstoy's greatest novel was *War and Peace*. In writing the book *Anna Karenina*, Tolstoy became very depressed. He gave up alcohol, smoking, and meat. He led a very strict life. After 48 years of marriage, he left his wife. He packed his bags, got on a train, and became very ill on the trip. He had to disembark and died a few days later.

