"This story is about Gus and his pup having a muddy adventure. Point out short u words like *mud*, *pup*, and *tub* while enjoying this messy, fun tale."



Gus and the Mud Pit

Gus got a tub.

He ran with the pup.

The pup dug in the mud.

Gus got in the mud.

Mud is on the pup.

Mud is on Gus!

Gus had fun in the sun.

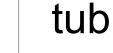
A mud pit is fun!

After reading the story, have your child point to and slowly sound out each practice word.



mud







EVERYTHING



Name:

Gus and the Mud Pit

1. What did the pup do in the mud?		2. What was on Gus at the end of the story?	
Α.	Took a nap	Α.	Paint
Β.	Dug	В.	Paint Mud A rug Sun
С.	Hid a box	С.	A rug
D.	Got a bug	D.	Sun

3. Fill in the blank:

Gus had fun in the _____.

4. What made the mud pit fun for Gus and the pup?

5. What do you think happened after they got messy?



Coaching Guide

Target Skill: Short u (CVC) Genre: Realistic Fiction High-Frequency Words: the, a, is, in, on, with

Before Reading

- 1. Remind your reader that short u says "uh" like in *mud*.
- 2. Have you ever played in the mud or gotten really messy?
- 3. What do you think happens when a dog digs?

During Reading

- 1. Sounding Out Support: Tap and blend words like *pup* and *dug*
- 2. Watch for repeated short u words about the fun and mess
- 3. What got covered in mud?
- 4. Read the muddy parts with playful expression!

After Reading

- 1. Why was the mud pit so fun for Gus and the pup?
- 2. What might Gus need to do after this messy day?
- 3. Would you want to play in a mud pit? Why or why not?
- 4. Find and read 5 short u words from the story
- 5. Fluency Tip: Read it again like you're telling a funny story about a messy day!

Activity Idea

Draw Gus and the pup in the mud pit. Then write a sentence about what each one did using short u words like *dug*, *mud*, and *fun*. Add splashes and details to show how messy it got!

Coaching Tip

Playful messes make for memorable reading—encourage laughter and connection as kids decode.

