

Decodable Texts: Long Vowel Teams: ow (cow)

"This nonfiction story focuses on the 'ow' sound as in 'cow.' Watch for words like 'now,' 'down,' and 'shower' as you learn about storms!"



How Thunderstorms Happen

A thunderstorm can bring loud sounds and a heavy rain shower.

Clouds grow dark and full as the air fills with power.

When warm and cool air mix, the clouds burst open.

Rain comes down fast, and the sky may glow with lightning.

People watch from inside while a storm moves through town.

Now you know how a thunderstorm begins!

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

now

down

shower

power

town



Name: _____

How Thunderstorms Happen

1. What do clouds do before a thunderstorm?

- A. Turn bright pink
- B. Get dark and full
- C. Fly away
- D. Make snow

2. What happens when warm and cool air mix?

- A. It gets quiet
- B. The rain turns to snow
- C. A thunderstorm begins
- D. The wind stops

3. Fill in the blank:

Rain comes _____ fast, and the sky may glow with lightning.

4. Why do people watch storms from inside?

5. What do you like or dislike about thunderstorms?



Coaching Guide

Target Skill: *ow* as in "cow" (/ow/ sound)

Genre: *Nonfiction – Earth Science / Weather*

High-Frequency Words: *the, with, from, when, now*

Before Reading

1. This story includes “ow” words like *now, down, shower, power, town, and how*.
 2. Have you ever watched a thunderstorm? What did you see or hear?
 3. How do people stay safe when a storm comes?
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During Reading

1. **Sounding Out Support: Sounding Out Support:** Practice stretching the /ow/ sound in words like *shower, power, and now*. Remind readers this sound feels like a quick burst of energy—just like a storm!
 2. Watch for target skill words that tell how storms form and what happens next.
 3. What happens to the sky during a thunderstorm?
 4. Read the final line like you’re explaining an amazing discovery!
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After Reading

1. Retell what happens before and during a thunderstorm.
 2. How does the power of the storm show in the sky and rain?
 3. What would you do if you saw a thunderstorm starting?
 4. Skill Check: Highlight six “ow” words in the passage.
 5. **Fluency Tip:** Read it again using a strong, dramatic voice—just like the sound of a big storm!
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Activity Idea

Draw a big thunderstorm over a small town with dark clouds, lightning, and heavy rain. Label parts using “ow” words like *now, down, shower, power, town, or how*. Write one sentence about how people stay safe during storms.

Coaching Tip

Nonfiction about weather connects reading to real-world experiences—kids love learning how nature works!

