

Decodable Texts: Long Vowel Teams: ou (young)

"This nonfiction story focuses on the 'ou' sound as in 'young.' Watch for words like 'young,' 'tough,' and 'courage' as you learn how animals grow strong!"



How Young Animals Learn to Be Strong

In the wild, young animals must learn fast.

A young bear tumbles and plays to build courage.

A group of lion cubs wrestles to grow tough.

Little birds stretch their wings and touch the sky for the first time.

Though it can be rough at first, these young animals keep trying.

Soon, they grow strong and flourish in their home!

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

young

courage

flourish

rough

touch



Name: _____

How Young Animals Learn to Be Strong

1. Why do lion cubs wrestle?

- A. To have fun and grow tough
- B. To chase birds
- C. To hide from their family
- D. To find food

2. How do young birds practice flying?

- A. They climb a tree
- B. They stretch their wings and touch the sky
- C. They wait for their mom
- D. They hop on the ground

3. Fill in the blank:

Though it can be _____ at first, these young animals keep trying.

4. Why do young animals need to be brave and keep trying?

5. How does practicing help animals grow strong?



Coaching Guide

Target Skill: *ou* as in "young" (/ŭ/ sound)

Genre: *Nonfiction – Life Science / Animal Growth*

High-Frequency Words: *they, their, soon, keep, first*

Before Reading

1. This story uses "ou" words like *young, tough, touch, courage, rough,* and *flourish*.
 2. What do you know about how baby animals grow and learn?
 3. Why might learning something new be hard at first?
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During Reading

1. **Sounding Out Support: Sounding Out Support:** Point out the /ŭ/ sound in "ou" words like *young, tough, touch,* and *courage*.
 2. Watch how different animals show bravery as they grow.
 3. Which animal do you think shows the most courage?
 4. **Fluency Tip:** Read the last line with a proud and hopeful tone!
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After Reading

1. Retell how young animals learn to be strong.
 2. What helps animals keep going when things feel rough?
 3. What new skill would you like to learn if you were a young animal?
 4. Skill Check: Highlight six "ou" words in the passage.
 5. **Fluency Tip** Read it again using strong, confident voices to show how animals grow braver!
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Activity Idea

Draw three young animals learning to grow strong: a bear playing, lion cubs wrestling, and a bird trying to fly. Label parts using "ou" words like *young, tough, touch, rough, courage,* or *flourish*. Write one sentence about how animals become strong.

Coaching Tip

Real-life animal examples make learning about bravery and growth exciting—tie phonics practice to these inspiring moments!

