

Decodable Texts: R-Controlled (ar)

"This story focuses on the 'ar' pattern, like in 'Mark,' 'park,' and 'cart.' Let's see how one kid turns a smart idea into something great for his town!"



Mark and the Park Plan

Mark had a smart plan.

He would start a clean-up at the big city park.

He made a chart and gave each part a task.

Some kids picked up trash.

Others raked leaves and stacked them in a cart.

Mark worked hard and gave each helper a star.

By noon, the park was neat, green, and full of cheer.

"Let's do this each month!" Mark said with a grin.

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

Mark

park

start

cart

chart



Name: _____

Mark and the Park Plan

1. What did Mark plan to do?

- A. Build a treehouse
- B. Start a clean-up at the park
- C. Make a new game
- D. Plant a garden

2. What did Mark give the helpers?

- A. A lunch box
- B. A rake
- C. A gold star
- D. A snack

3. Fill in the blank:

Mark worked hard and gave each helper a _____.

4. What does this story show about Mark's leadership?

5. What would you want to clean or fix in your town?



Coaching Guide

Target Skill: ar R-Controlled Vowel

Genre: Fiction – Realistic Fiction

High-Frequency Words: had, each, the, with, this

Before Reading

1. This story uses the “ar” sound like in *park*, *start*, and *chart*.
 2. What does it take to make a park clean and safe?
 3. Have you ever helped out in your community or school?
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During Reading

1. **Sounding Out Support:** Practice decoding “ar” words that have the /ar/ sound in the middle or at the end like *Mark* and *star*.
 2. Watch for words that show Mark’s plan and actions
 3. What kind of chart did Mark make?
 4. Read the final line with pride and inspiration
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After Reading

1. Retell what Mark did to clean the park
 2. Why do you think kids wanted to help him again?
 3. What kind of plan would you start if you had a team?
 4. Skill Check: Highlight six “ar” words in the story
 5. **Fluency Tip:** Read it again like you’re giving a speech to the town about your clean-up team!
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Activity Idea

Draw Mark and his team working in the park with rakes, carts, and charts. Label items using “ar” words like *cart*, *star*, *park*, or *chart*. Write one sentence about how teamwork helped the plan succeed.

Coaching Tip

Use leadership-themed stories to support reading and real-world confidence—every vowel pattern can carry a big idea!

