

Decodable Texts: Long Vowel Teams: ow (cow)

"This story focuses on the 'ow' sound as in 'cow.' Watch for words like 'now,' 'prowl,' and 'growl' as Penny tries to keep up with her sneaky cat!"



Penny's Prowling Cat

Penny's cat, Shadow, loved to prowl the town at night.

No one knew how he got out, but now and then, he would vanish.

One night, Penny saw Shadow crouched below the flower cart.

His eyes had a wild glow, and his tail gave a quick scowl.

"Shadow!" Penny called. "Come down now!"

But Shadow let out a tiny growl and prowled farther down the road.

Penny laughed. "That cat has too much night power for me!"

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

now

prowl

growl

scowl

flower



Name: _____

Penny's Prowling Cat

1. Where did Shadow like to go at night?

- A. Stay in the house
- B. Prowl around the town
- C. Sleep by the fire
- D. Sit on Penny's lap

2. How did Shadow act when Penny called him?

- A. He ran to her
- B. He stayed still
- C. He growled and prowled farther away
- D. He jumped into a tree

3. Fill in the blank:

"Shadow!" Penny called. "Come _____ now!"

4. Why do you think Shadow liked prowling around at night?

5. What would you do if you had a cat that loved sneaking out?



Coaching Guide

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

Genre: Fiction – Animal / Adventure

High-Frequency Words: *his, she, now, come, too*

Before Reading

1. This story uses "ow" words like *now, prowl, growl, scowl, flower, and down*.
 2. Do you know any pets that like to sneak off on little adventures?
 3. How would you try to keep a sneaky pet nearby?
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During Reading

1. **Sounding Out Support: Sounding Out Support:** Remind readers to stretch and feel the /ow/ sound in words like *prowl, growl, and scowl*.
 2. Watch for target skill words that show what Shadow is doing and how Penny reacts.
 3. What did Shadow do when Penny called him?
 4. Read Penny's final line with a laugh, like she knows she can't keep up with that silly cat!
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After Reading

1. Retell how Shadow kept sneaking around the town.
 2. Why do you think Penny found Shadow's adventures funny?
 3. If you could prowl like Shadow, where would you go?
 4. Skill Check: Highlight six "ow" words in the story.
 5. **Fluency Tip:** Read it again with playful energy and a sneaky, silly tone—just like Shadow!
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Activity Idea

Draw Shadow sneaking below the flower cart at night while Penny watches. Label parts using "ow" words like *now, prowl, growl, scowl, flower, or down*. Write one sentence about what Shadow might do on his next night out.

Coaching Tip

Funny animal adventures help readers enjoy practicing sounds—let their imaginations sneak off with the story!

