

Decodable Texts: Ending Blends (S-Blends)

"This story is about a mystery on a boat! Tell your reader to pay attention to -st words and use a dramatic tone when the chest is found."



Rust on the Chest

Nate was on a boat with the crew.

The boat hit a bump and went *thud!*

"Look!" said Nate.

He saw a box stuck in a nest of rope.

The box had rust on the chest.

The lid was stuck.

Nate gave it a twist.

Snap! The lid went up.

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

rust

chest

nest

twist

bump



Name: _____

Rust on the Chest

1. What did Nate find?

- A. A rope
- B. A chest
- C. A net
- D. A fish

2. What was wrong with the lid?

- A. It was wet
- B. It was hot
- C. It was stuck
- D. It was lost

3. Fill in the blank:

The box had _____ on the chest.

4. What clues in the story helped you know it was a mystery?

5. What do you think was inside the chest?



Coaching Guide

Target Skill: -st Ending Blends

Genre: Adventure / Mystery

High-Frequency Words: said, the, was, look, on, up

Before Reading

1. This story has -st words like *rust*, *chest*, and *twist*.
 2. Have you ever found something unexpected?
 3. Why do boats sometimes hide old things?
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During Reading

1. **Sounding Out Support:** Remind kids to listen for /s/ /t/ together at the end of -st words
 2. Watch for -st words like *nest*, *chest*, and *twist*
 3. What did Nate find?
 4. Use a dramatic voice when the lid goes *snap!*
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After Reading

1. What happened after the boat hit the bump?
 2. Why do you think the chest was rusty?
 3. What would you put inside a mystery box?
 4. Skill Mastery: Find 5 -st words and 1 word with -mp
 5. **Fluency Tip:** Try reading the story again like you're telling a mystery story to a group!
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Activity Idea

Make your own “mystery chest” drawing. Include -st words around the outside like *rust*, *nest*, *twist*, and *chest*. Inside the chest, draw something exciting you'd want to find and describe it in a short sentence.

Coaching Tip

Pause after the twist to ask, “What do you think will happen next?” This builds prediction and engagement during reading.

