

Decodable Texts: All R-Controlled

"This story uses many R-controlled vowel patterns, like 'bird,' 'cart,' 'helper,' and 'corner.' Let's see how Starla the bird makes a difference!"



Starla the Search Bird

Starla was a bird with a very big heart.

She helped lost critters find their way home.

One morning, she heard a squirrel cry near the porch.

"My cart rolled down the hill!" he chirped.

Starla fluttered down and spotted the cart near the corner.

She soared, gave a firm tug with her beak, and pulled it back.

"You're a smart helper!" the squirrel said.

Starla smiled. "Search birds never quit!"

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

bird

cart

helper

corner

smart



Name: _____

Starla the Search Bird

1. What did the squirrel lose?

- A. His coat
- B. His snack
- C. His cart
- D. His shell

2. How did Starla help?

- A. She called for help
- B. She pushed the cart downhill
- C. She found the cart and pulled it back
- D. She gave the squirrel a map

3. Fill in the blank:

"You're a smart _____!" the squirrel said.

4. What kind of character is Starla, and how does she solve problems?

5. What would you do if you saw someone lose something in your yard?



Coaching Guide

Target Skill: Mixed R-Controlled Vowels (ar, er, ir, or, ur)

Genre: Fiction – Animal Fantasy

High-Frequency Words: with, her, said, the, my

Before Reading

1. This story includes many R-controlled vowel words like *cart*, *bird*, *corner*, *squirrel*, and *helper*.
 2. Have you ever helped someone find something important?
 3. What makes a good helper?
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During Reading

1. **Sounding Out Support:** Stretch and tap mixed “R” vowel sounds in *Starla*, *bird*, *helper*, *corner*, and *squirrel*.
 2. Watch for how Starla listens, searches, and acts
 3. What words describe how she helps?
 4. Read the final line with pride and determination
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After Reading

1. Retell how Starla helped the squirrel
 2. What did Starla show about being a good friend or leader?
 3. What kind of “search bird” would you be, and what would you find?
 4. Skill Check: Highlight one word for each R-controlled pattern in the story
 5. **Fluency Tip:** Read it again with a heroic, helpful voice—just like Starla!
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Activity Idea

Draw Starla pulling the cart back to the squirrel near a porch corner. Label parts using mixed R-controlled words like *bird*, *cart*, *corner*, *helper*, or *squirrel*. Write one sentence about why Starla is a great search bird.

Coaching Tip

Let mixed-vowel stories build mastery through context—students gain fluency by seeing patterns side by side.

