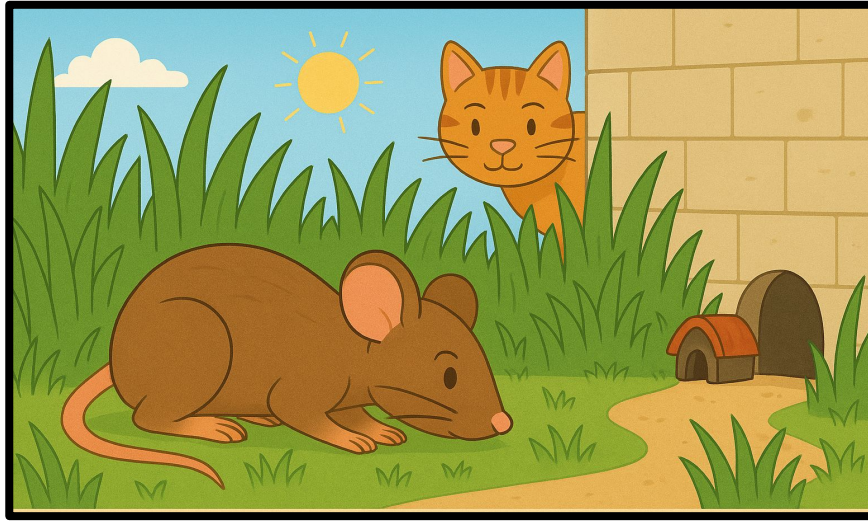


## Decodable Texts: Long Vowel Teams: au

"This story focuses on the 'au' sound as in 'Paul.' Watch for words like 'Paul,' 'cautious,' and 'caught' as you read!"



### The Cautious Mouse

Paul the mouse lived in a small house near the tall grass. He was a cautious mouse and never ran too fast.

One morning, Paul heard a loud "meow!" and froze. A cat was nearby!

Paul thought about how to get back to his house without being caught. He crouched low and crept through the grass.

At last, he saw the small hole in the wall. With a quick dash, he was safe at home again.

Paul sighed with relief and thought, "Being cautious keeps me safe!"

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

Paul

caught

cause

pause

cautious



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Cautious Mouse

1. What did Paul the mouse hear outside?

- A. A loud train
- B. A cat meowing
- C. A dog barking
- D. A bird singing

2. How did Paul stay safe from the cat?

- A. He climbed a tree
- B. He ran straight into the open field
- C. He crouched low and crept through the grass
- D. He stayed still and waited for night

3. Fill in the blank:

Paul sighed with relief and thought, "Being \_\_\_\_\_ keeps me safe!"

4. Why do you think Paul was cautious instead of running fast?

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5. What would you do if you needed to stay safe like Paul?

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# Coaching Guide

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**Target Skill:** Long Vowel Team 'au' (as in "Paul")

**Genre:** Fiction – Animal Adventure

**High-Frequency Words:** the, he, and, his, at

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## Before Reading

1. Remind them of the target skill: "We're working on words where 'au' says the /aw/ sound, like in 'Paul.'"
  2. Have you ever had to be cautious in a tricky situation?
  3. What animals do you think are good at staying safe?
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## During Reading

1. **Sounding Out Support:** Remind kids that 'au' makes the /aw/ sound, even though it looks different from 'aw.' Try that sound first when seeing 'au.'
  2. Watch for 'au' words and stretch them out slowly.
  3. What did Paul do when he saw the cat?
  4. Try reading Paul's last line with a calm, relieved voice.
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## After Reading

1. Can you retell how Paul escaped from the cat?
  2. Why is it sometimes better to be cautious than to run fast?
  3. Would you rather be a fast runner or a careful planner? Why?
  4. Skill mastery prompt: "Find and underline 5 'au' words in the story!"
  5. **Fluency Tip:** Try reading the story again like you are a brave little mouse!
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## Activity Idea

Draw a picture of Paul hiding in the grass and his small house nearby. Label at least three things using 'au' words and write a short sentence about how Paul stayed safe.

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## Coaching Tip

Celebrate when your reader spots tricky words—finding patterns like 'au' makes reading easier!

