

## Decodable Texts: Long Vowel Teams: ou (young)

"This story focuses on the 'ou' sound as in 'young.' Watch for words like 'country,' 'cousin,' and 'courage' as you read about Mira and Gus's big plan!"



### The Country Cousins' Big Plan

Mira and her cousin Gus lived in the country.

They had a plan to plant sunflowers near the barn.

The ground felt rough, and the bag of seeds was double the weight they expected!

Mira showed courage and carried the heavy bag.

Gus took a small touch of seeds and dropped them in each hole.

By noon, they sat down for a drink.

"This was tough work," said Mira. "But the sunflowers will flourish!"

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

young

country

rough

double

courage



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

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## The Country Cousins' Big Plan

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**1. What did Mira and Gus plan to do?**

- A. Make a kite
- B. Plant sunflowers
- C. Build a barn
- D. Paint a picture

**2. How did Mira show courage?**

- A. She carried the heavy bag
- B. She stayed inside
- C. She took a nap
- D. She asked for help

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**3. Fill in the blank:**

Mira showed \_\_\_\_\_ and carried the heavy bag.

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**4. What helped Mira and Gus finish their tough work?**

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**5. Why do you think they felt proud after planting the seeds?**

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# Coaching Guide

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**Target Skill:** *ou* as in "young" (/ŭ/ sound)

**Genre:** *Fiction – Realistic Fiction / Perseverance*

**High-Frequency Words:** *their, said, was, with, down*

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## Before Reading

1. This story uses "ou" words like *country, cousin, rough, double, and courage*.
  2. Have you ever planted something or helped with tough outdoor work?
  3. What do you need to finish a hard job?
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## During Reading

1. **Sounding Out Support: Sounding Out Support:** Remind students that the "ou" spelling makes the /ŭ/ sound in *country, cousin, and courage*.
  2. Watch for ways Mira and Gus work together to finish their plan.
  3. What will happen next with the sunflowers?
  4. **Fluency Tip:** Read Mira's final line with hope and excitement!
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## After Reading

1. Retell what tough job Mira and Gus worked through.
  2. How did their teamwork help them finish the task?
  3. If you planted something today, what would you choose and why?
  4. Skill Check: Highlight six "ou" words in the story.
  5. **Fluency Tip: Fluency Tip:** Read it again using strong voices like you're proud of finishing hard work!
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## Activity Idea

Draw Mira and Gus planting sunflowers near a barn with a big bag of seeds. Label parts using "ou" words like *country, cousin, rough, double, courage, or young*. Write one sentence about how teamwork helped.

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## Coaching Tip

Stories about hard work and growth help children believe they can do tough things—every page builds strength and confidence!

