

Decodable Texts: Long Vowel Teams: Both au & aw

"This story focuses on the 'aw' and 'au' sounds, like in 'Laura' and 'haunted.' Watch for words like 'Laura,' 'haunted,' and 'saw' as you read!"



The Haunted Hallway

Shawn and his sister Laura visited an old castle during their vacation. The guide warned them, "Whatever you do, don't enter the haunted hallway alone!"

Shawn grinned. "It's probably just a tall tale," he whispered to Laura.

They crept down the long hallway, past old stone walls and dusty portraits. Suddenly, they heard a loud *creak!*

Laura paused and saw a small wooden box behind a loose stone. Inside was a golden key and a note that read, "*Bravery unlocks the greatest rewards!*"

They laughed, knowing they had found a hidden part of the castle's history.

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

Laura

Shawn

saw

haunted

fault



Name: _____

The Haunted Hallway

1. Where did Shawn and Laura visit?

- A. An old museum
- B. An old castle
- C. A tall lighthouse
- D. A mountain cave

2. What did they find behind the loose stone?

- A. A pile of treasure
- B. A golden key and a note
- C. A broken lantern
- D. An old painting

3. Fill in the blank:

Laura paused and _____ a small wooden box behind the stone.

4. Why do you think the guide warned them about the haunted hallway?

5. If you could explore a castle, what hidden rooms or secrets would you hope to find?



Coaching Guide

Target Skill: Long Vowel Teams 'aw' and 'au'

Genre: Fiction – Mystery Adventure

High-Frequency Words: the, and, to, they, their

Before Reading

1. Remind them of the target skill: "We're working on words where 'aw' and 'au' say the /aw/ sound, like in 'saw' and 'Laura.'"
 2. Have you ever explored an old or mysterious place?
 3. What makes a hallway or old building feel spooky?
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During Reading

1. **Sounding Out Support:** Remind kids that both 'aw' and 'au' make the /aw/ sound. Try that sound first when seeing tricky words.
 2. Watch for 'aw' and 'au' words and stretch them out carefully.
 3. What did Laura and Shawn find in the hidden box?
 4. Try reading the note in the story with a mysterious, brave voice!
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After Reading

1. Can you retell what happened when they explored the haunted hallway?
 2. Why do you think bravery helped them find the hidden box?
 3. If you found a golden key in a castle, what do you think it would open?
 4. Skill mastery prompt: "Find and underline 5 'aw' or 'au' words in the story!"
 5. **Fluency Tip:** Try reading the story again like you're telling a spooky but exciting mystery!
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Activity Idea

Draw a map of the haunted castle with a hidden vault and secret passageways. Label at least three places using 'aw' or 'au' words and write a sentence about what special treasure or secret could be hidden there.

Coaching Tip

Help your reader use different voices for different characters to make the story more dramatic and fun!

