

Decodable Texts: R-Controlled (ar)

"This mystery story includes 'ar' words like 'yard,' 'barn,' and 'sharp.' Follow Sam's adventure and see where the red star leads!"



The Map in the Jar

At the edge of the yard, a glass jar sat in the grass.

It held a tiny map with a red star on it.

"Start at the barn," the note said.

Sam held the map and raced toward the farm.

Past the cart, around the arch, and under the bark of the big tree, Sam found a mark.

A stone was carved with the word *Treasure*.

Inside the bark was a small box full of charms.

Sam gave a sharp laugh. "What a smart game!"

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

jar

star

start

barn

sharp



Name: _____

The Map in the Jar

1. What did Sam find in the jar?

- A. A charm
- B. A map
- C. A bug
- D. A note

2. Where did the map lead?

- A. To a barn and tree
- B. To the store
- C. To a cave
- D. To a house

3. Fill in the blank:

A stone was carved with the word _____.

4. What clues helped Sam follow the path to the treasure?

5. What kind of smart game would you hide around your yard?



Coaching Guide

Target Skill: ar R-Controlled Vowel

Genre: Fiction – Mystery / Adventure

High-Frequency Words: the, with, at, past, a

Before Reading

1. This story focuses on the “ar” sound, like in *jar*, *start*, and *sharp*.
 2. Have you ever followed a treasure map or made one up with friends?
 3. What places would you include if you made a backyard treasure hunt?
-

During Reading

1. **Sounding Out Support:** Emphasize decoding of “ar” words in names and settings like *barn*, *yard*, and *carved*.
 2. Watch for ar words that guide the journey and describe the surprise
 3. Where does the map lead, and what does Sam find?
 4. Read the ending line with excitement and discovery
-

After Reading

1. Retell how Sam followed the map from the jar to the treasure
 2. Why do you think the game was fun and smart?
 3. What might be hidden in your own backyard?
 4. Skill Check: Highlight six “ar” words in the story
 5. **Fluency Tip:** Read it again like you're telling an exciting treasure tale to your class
-

Activity Idea

Draw the map Sam found and the path past the barn and tree. Label items using “ar” words like *jar*, *star*, *cart*, or *bark*. Write one sentence about what else might be buried nearby.

Coaching Tip

Mystery stories are perfect for building decoding and imagination—every clue is a phonics moment in disguise.

