

Decodable Texts: Long Vowel Teams: ai

"Today, you'll spot words that have the long A sound made by the letters 'ai.' Let's see what happens when two kids take a trail that's full of surprises!"



The Painted Trail

Finn and Mia found a trail near the lake. A big sign read, "Paint Trail Ahead!"

"This will be fun!" said Finn.

They took the main path. Bright paint dots made a trail. The dots made a snail shape, then a plain line, then a big chain of zigzags!

Mia held Finn's hand. "Let's stay on the paint path!" she said.

Rain came fast. The trail was wet, but they did not fail. They made it to a small train stop at the end of the trail.

A man in a gray cap waved. "Hop on! You found the end of the paint trail!"

Finn and Mia rode the train back with big grins.

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

trail

paint

rain

chain

snail



Name: _____

The Painted Trail

1. What made the trail special?

- A. It had bright paint dots.
- B. It had big rocks.
- C. It was very plain.
- D. It went to a farm.

2. What did Finn and Mia find at the end of the trail?

- A. A snail.
- B. A paint shop.
- C. A train stop.
- D. A small cave.

3. Fill in the blank:

Mia held Finn's _____ as they stayed on the paint path.

4. How did Finn and Mia show they did not fail, even when it rained?

5. Would you like to walk on the paint trail? Why or why not?



Coaching Guide

Target Skill: Long Vowel Team “ai”

Genre: Fiction – Adventure

High-Frequency Words: said, was, they, the, to3

Before Reading

1. Remind them of the target skill: “Today we’re looking for words that have the long A sound spelled with ‘ai.’”
 2. What do you think a “Paint Trail” could be?
 3. Have you ever followed a path or trail? What did you find?
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During Reading

1. **Sounding Out Support:** Remind kids that the ‘ai’ sound makes the long A sound like in “train.”
 2. Watch for target skill words as you read!
 3. What shape did the paint dots make first?
 4. Read with fun expression when the man waves at the kids!
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After Reading

1. Can you retell what happened from the start to the end of the trail?
 2. Why do you think the man was waiting at the train stop?
 3. Did the rain make the trail adventure harder or more exciting? Explain.
 4. Find and highlight 5 words with the ‘ai’ spelling.
 5. **Fluency Tip:** Try reading the story again and make your voice excited when fun things happen!
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Activity Idea

Draw your own “Paint Trail” on paper using bright dots. Create shapes like in the story and write a few words using the ‘ai’ pattern near them. After drawing, challenge yourself or a friend to follow the trail without lifting your pencil. Try to add a silly ending spot for the trail, like a hidden treasure or funny surprise! Then, share your trail with someone else and see if they can follow it too!

Coaching Tip

Encourage kids to look for word patterns and celebrate each time they spot a target skill word!

