

Decodable Texts: Long Vowel Teams: ay

"Today, we're going to spot words with the long A sound spelled 'ay.' Get ready for a funny story about a tray that just won't stay put!"



The Runaway Tray

It was a bright, windy day. Max held his lunch tray as he made his way outside.

A big gust of wind blew by. "Hey!" yelled Max as his tray flew away!

The tray slid across the gray stone path. Max ran fast, but the tray was too quick.

It zoomed past the play yard and down the hill. "Stay still, tray!" Max called.

At last, the tray hit a bale of hay and came to a stop. Max sat by the tray and began to laugh. "What a wild tray!" he said.

From that day on, Max ate inside when the wind came to play!

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

tray

stay

play

gray

way



Name: _____

The Runaway Tray

1. What made Max's tray fly away?

- A. It was too light.
- B. The wind blew it away.
- C. Max threw it.
- D. A friend pushed it.

2. Where did the tray finally stop?

- A. At the play yard.
- B. Next to a tree.
- C. At the top of the hill.
- D. In a bale of hay.

3. Fill in the blank:

Max's tray slid down the _____ stone path.

4. How did Max feel after the tray stopped?

5. What would you do if your lunch tray flew away?



Coaching Guide

Target Skill: Long Vowel Team 'ay'

Genre: Humorous Fiction

High-Frequency Words: the, was, his, he, to, from

Before Reading

1. Remind them of the target skill: "Today we're looking for words that have the long A sound spelled with 'ay.'"
 2. Have you ever had something blow away in the wind?
 3. What do you think might happen when Max goes outside with his tray?
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During Reading

1. **Sounding Out Support:** Remind kids that the 'ay' spelling makes the long A sound like in "tray."
 2. Watch for target skill words as you read!
 3. Where did the tray slide first?
 4. Read with a funny voice when Max calls after his tray!
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After Reading

1. Can you retell how Max's tray got away and where it ended up?
 2. Why do you think Max chose to eat inside next time?
 3. What would you have done differently to keep the tray from blowing away?
 4. Find and highlight 5 words with the 'ay' spelling.
 5. **Fluency Tip:** Try reading the story again and make your voice sound surprised when Max yells, "Hey!"
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Activity Idea

Draw a picture of the runaway tray and show the silly path it took. Add arrows to show where it went and write a short note about how Max found it. Then, share your drawing and tell the story in your own words!

Coaching Tip

Celebrate when kids find the 'ay' words and read them smoothly! Rereading favorite funny parts builds fluency and confidence.

