

Decodable Texts: Long Vowel Teams: au

"This story focuses on the 'au' sound as in 'aunt,' 'author,' and 'vault' as you read!"



The Secret Vault

Lena's aunt was a famous author who wrote stories about hidden treasure. One day, Lena found a note tucked inside an old book.

The note said, *"Look behind the painting."*

Lena rushed to the hallway and carefully moved the picture. Behind it was a small door!

She pushed it open and found a secret vault. Inside was a tiny box filled with her aunt's favorite keepsakes and a letter that read, *"Adventure is the greatest treasure of all!"*

Lena smiled and knew this was a story she would never forget.

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

aunt

author

vault

haul

launch



Name: _____

The Secret Vault

1. What did Lena find behind the painting?

- A. A big window
- B. A small door and a secret vault
- C. A hidden stairway
- D. A box of candy

2. Who left the secret vault and letter for Lena to find?

- A. Her mother
- B. Her teacher
- C. Her aunt
- D. Her neighbor

3. Fill in the blank:

Lena's aunt was a famous _____ who wrote stories about hidden treasure.

4. Why do you think Lena's aunt wanted her to find the secret vault?

5. If you found a hidden vault, what would you hope to find inside?



Coaching Guide

Target Skill: Long Vowel Team 'au' (as in "aunt")

Genre: Fiction – Mystery Adventure

High-Frequency Words: the, she, and, her, inside

Before Reading

1. Remind them of the target skill: "We're reading to find 'au' words that say the /aw/ sound, like in 'aunt.'"
 2. Have you ever found a hidden or secret place?
 3. Why do you think people hide special things?
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During Reading

1. **Sounding Out Support:** Remind kids that 'au' makes the /aw/ sound, even if it doesn't look like 'aw.' Try that sound first when sounding out tricky words.
 2. Watch for 'au' words and stretch them out carefully.
 3. What did Lena find inside the secret vault?
 4. Try reading the letter's last line with wonder and excitement!
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After Reading

1. Can you retell how Lena discovered the secret vault?
 2. Why do you think the letter called adventure the greatest treasure?
 3. If you could create a secret vault, what would you hide in it?
 4. Skill mastery prompt: "Find and underline 5 'au' words in the story!"
 5. **Fluency Tip:** Try reading the story again like you're telling a great family secret!
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Activity Idea

Draw a picture of the hidden vault and the treasures inside. Label at least three things using 'au' words and write a sentence about what makes adventure a great treasure.

Coaching Tip

Encourage kids to read with curiosity—mysteries are more fun when you really imagine each part!

