

Decodable Texts: Long Vowel Teams: Both au & aw

"This story focuses on the 'aw' and 'au' sounds, like in 'straw' and 'Paul.' Watch for words like 'Paul,' 'straw,' and 'crawled' as you read!"



The Straw Maze Challenge

At the fall festival, Paul and his friend Shawn found a huge maze made of tall stacks of straw.

"If we finish the maze first, we win a prize!" Shawn shouted.

They crawled through tunnels, squeezed between straw walls, and paused at each turn to choose the right path.

Suddenly, they saw a bright red flag waving at the exit.
"There it is!" Paul called.

With a final sprint, they raced out of the maze and won two big chocolate bars.

"This was the best day!" they agreed as they sat down to enjoy their sweet reward.

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

Paul

Shawn

straw

crawl

cause



Name: _____

The Straw Maze Challenge

1. Where did Paul and Shawn find the maze?

- A. At a sports event
- B. At the fall festival
- C. In their backyard
- D. At a museum

2. What prize did they win after finishing the maze?

- A. Two kites
- B. Two big chocolate bars
- C. A golden trophy
- D. A bag of popcorn

3. Fill in the blank:

Paul and Shawn crawled through tunnels and squeezed between straw _____.

4. Why do you think they had to pause at each turn in the maze?

5. If you built your own maze, what would it be made of?



Coaching Guide

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

Genre: Fiction – Festival Adventure

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

Before Reading

1. Remind them of the target skill: "We're reading to find 'aw' and 'au' words that say the /aw/ sound, like in 'straw' and 'Paul.'"
 2. Have you ever been in a maze before? What did it feel like?
 3. What makes solving a maze fun and challenging?
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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 you see tricky words.
 2. Watch for 'aw' and 'au' words and sound them out clearly.
 3. What did Paul and Shawn see at the end of the maze?
 4. Try reading the final sentence with excitement, like you just won the prize!
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After Reading

1. Can you retell how Paul and Shawn made their way through the maze?
 2. Why do you think they called this the best day?
 3. If you won a prize at a festival, what would you choose?
 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 announcing an exciting race!
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Activity Idea

Create a simple maze on paper and draw Paul and Shawn's path through it. Label at least three things in the maze using 'aw' or 'au' words. Write a short sentence about the best prize you'd like to win at a festival.

Coaching Tip

Encourage your reader to imagine the excitement of the race—it makes the story more fun and brings the adventure to life!

