

Decodable Texts: Long Vowel Teams: Both ai & ay

"This story includes both 'ai' and 'ay' vowel teams. Watch for words like 'trail,' 'bay,' and 'rain' as Zay and Blaine head out for an adventure!"



The Trail to Gray Bay

Zay and Blaine set off on a trail near the coast.

"We'll play at Gray Bay before the end of the day," said Zay.

They packed lunch in a pail and tied rope to a stake.

On the way, they found a train track and had to wait.

Rain began to fall, but they did not stray.

"We'll stay dry under this cave," Blaine said.

When the rain went away, the boys ran to the bay.

They ate, played, and watched the waves sway.

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

trail

bay

pail

play

stay



Name: _____

The Trail to Gray Bay

1. What was the goal of the boys' trip?

- A. To find a cave
- B. To ride the train
- C. To reach Gray Bay
- D. To play in the rain

2. What did they do when it started to rain?

- A. Ran home
- B. Stayed under a cave
- C. Built a raft
- D. Kept walking

3. Fill in the blank:

They packed lunch in a _____ and tied rope to a stake.

4. What helped Zay and Blaine stay safe during their trip?

5. What do you think made this adventure special for the boys?



Coaching Guide

Target Skill: ai and ay Vowel Teams (Long A)

Genre: Fiction – Outdoor Adventure

High-Frequency Words: they, said, the, before, and

Before Reading

1. Today's story mixes the "ai" and "ay" vowel teams. Look for words like *trail*, *play*, *rain*, and *stay*.
 2. Have you ever gone on a hike or outdoor trip with a friend?
 3. What do you do if the weather changes while you're outside?
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During Reading

1. **Sounding Out Support:** Pause to sound out long A words with "ai" (usually in the middle) and "ay" (usually at the end).
 2. Watch for ai/ay words that describe places, actions, and weather
 3. What did Zay and Blaine do when they hit an obstacle or rain?
 4. Read their dialogue with energy and curiosity!
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After Reading

1. Retell the boys' trip in the right order
 2. What smart choices helped them complete their journey safely?
 3. What other things could they do at the bay next time?
 4. Skill Check: Circle six ai/ay words in the story
 5. **Fluency Tip:** Read it again like you're telling the story around a campfire!
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Activity Idea

Draw a map of the boys' journey from trail to bay. Label items with ai/ay words like "rain," "play," "pail," or "stay." Write one sentence about their adventure.

Coaching Tip

Adventure stories keep readers engaged—pair excitement with decoding to build confidence in reading long vowel teams.

