

Name: _____

Phoneme Finders: A Game of Cat and Mouse!

Hi! Fezziwig the owl here! I like to eat mice and it seems that I am not the only one who does! Read this story all about a little mouse...

Deep in the reeds and green grass, is a little, round house. In the house, lives a sweet little mouse. If it wants to feed, it goes out to look for nuts and seeds on the ground around its home. It has lots of little teeth to eat the seeds.

But if it hears a loud sound, it will run home as fast as its feet can go. The sound might be a cat! Cats like to eat mice and a cat might be about to pounce! The mouse waits, hidden...

It seems the cat did not see the mouse! Phew!
The mouse can have some food and then sleep safe and sound!

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There are lots of words with 'ee' or 'ou' in them in this story. Are there more words with 'ee' or more with 'ou'?

The word 'feel' was not in the story. Can you think of a sentence using the word 'feel' to add to the story?

The word 'shout' was not in the story. Can you think of a sentence using the word 'shout' to add to the story?

The word 'tree' was not in the story. Can you think of a sentence using the word 'tree' to add to the story?

The word 'mouth' was not in the story. Can you think of a sentence using the word 'mouth' to add to the story?

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Guidance for Parents

If your child is still at home, this reading and writing activity will hopefully help your child practice their phonics. This activity is aimed at early readers and writers i.e. KS1 who are able to sound out and read simple texts and are confident forming letters and writing simple sentences. As with other activities, it should help children practice 'decoding'/reading and 'encoding'/writing known phonemes. However, this activity has been specifically designed to reframe phonics practice in the learner's mind as a tool for creative writing. Once they have the tools to read and write, then they can make and compose their own stories!

The focus is on the 'ee' phoneme/sound as in 'see' or 'week' and the 'ou' phoneme/sound as in 'out' or 'round'. These are represented by the 'ee' and 'ou' graphemes/letters. This is taken from the national curriculum. If your child's school uses the 'Read Write Inc phonic scheme, these phonemes are from Set 2 and are called '*ee, what can you see?*' and '*ou, shout it out!*'

Children should read through the text with your help, to familiarise themselves with the story. Ask the children to imagine what they are reading to aid composition later. Then re-read it, identifying each occasion when the phonemes are used. They can then have a go at writing their own lines for the story. As this is a creative task, in regards to spelling, correct spelling of words with the target phoneme should be the focus, not others, to avoid limiting their ideas. They should be encouraged to be imaginative. How do they imagine the setting looks? How might the cat or mouse feel? What might the story have left out? What happens next?