

Before reading

- Talk with your child about the grapheme ay,
- Can they spot the ay's in the text?
  
- Ask your child to read the story - Encourage your child to use their phonics to help them read but give assistance if necessary. If they get stuck on a word, ask them if they can 'chop it up'. They should be able to show you how they do this (they chop the word in to phonemes (sounds) and then blend them together to help them decode).
- If you can print the story - ask your child to use a pencil to underline all the ay graphemes. If you cannot print, you can still go through the story on the screen and spot as many words which have 'ay' in as you can.

After reading

Ask your child the questions on the sheet. If they can't remember the answers encourage them to go back and reread the text to find them. Then, ask your child the questions below.

- What kind of text is this? (postcard - fiction)
- Who is the postcard written to?
- Who wrote the postcard?
- Why did Sway airways feel bad?
- What did Sway airways say they would do because they felt bad?
- Why does Shay say 'hooray!'?
- What question does Shay ask Fay?
- What do you think Fay might have done for her birthday?
- What sort of things have you done on your birthdays?
- What is your favourite thing about birthdays?

Activity

Look at the pictures below. Discuss with your child how they would feel if the presents/cakes were given to them.



Write down all the words that you and your child can think of to describe how they would feel.

(excited, happy, content, thrilled, pleased, glad, joyful, lucky, curious, anticipation, hopeful, eager, keen (to eat the cake or open the present))

Then see if you can write down some adjectives to describe the pictures e.g. A **big, blue** present with a **shiny, green** bow.

Ask your child to pretend to be Fay and write a reply to Shay using some of the describing words (adjectives) that you have written down to help them. Did Fay have a good birthday? Did she have some cake? Was it like the ones above or different? Can you describe the cake? Was it big or small? What colour was it? Were there any presents? What did they look like? Were they enormous or tiny? Were they wrapped up? What colour was the paper or the bow?

Remind your child to use **adjectives** (describing words) to describe the colour and size of the cake/presents. Also, see if they can also say how Fay was feeling when she saw her presents/cake etc.

Again, throughout the week see if your child can use some the new words learnt to describe things at home and also how they are feeling. You could try to use them as well and see if they notice!

This exercise is aimed at improving your child's vocabulary so that they understand the new words when they read them in books and also so that they can use them in their writing. The more they say them or hear them the greater chance they will remember them and be able to use and understand them.