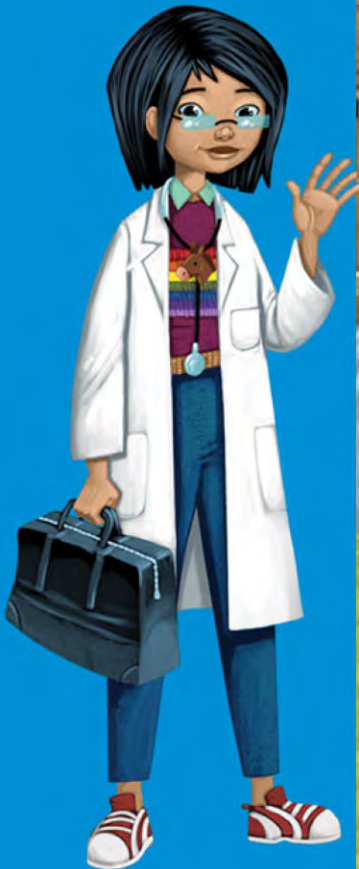




“long a”
sound

THE ADVENTURES OF DOC LEEDA

Trey the Horse Gets a New Home



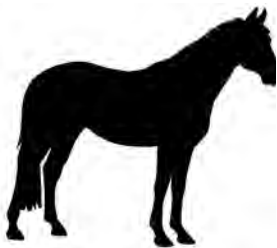
Mindy Reese

THE ADVENTURES OF DOC LEEDA

Trey the Horse Gets a New Home

An early-reader exploration
into the “long a” sound

Mindy Reese



HIGH NOON BOOKS
NOVATO, CA

How to Use This Book

Use this book to help students learn the “ā,” or “long a,” sound. To help students retain the information, follow this recommended approach.

Step 1: Read “Doc Leeda’s Lesson of the Day” to students.

Begin by reading aloud “Doc Leeda’s Lesson of the Day,” which explains the color-coded sound that will be used throughout the book.

Step 2: Echo read with students.

Read each page of the story aloud, and then ask students to read it aloud to you. Point to, or have students point to, each word as you read. Say to students:

Remember that highlighted letters make the “ā” sound.

Step 3: Have students read on their own.

Have students read the entire story aloud on their own, lending help as needed. Encourage students to point to each word as they read. Check for understanding with the questions provided after the story.

Doc Leeda's Lesson of the Day

“ā,” or “long a,” sound

A **blue** color code is used throughout the book to show words that make the “long a” sound.

Remember, these spellings may have other sounds in other types of words.

Letter(s) that can make the “long a” vowel sound	Example words
“a” with silent “e” at the end of the word; may have an “s,” “d,” or “r” at the end of the word	snake/snakes name/named bake/baker
“ai” in the middle of a word	rain train snail
“ei” at the beginning or in the middle of a word	reindeer eight weight
“ea” in the middle of a word	great steak break
“ay” at the end of a word	play say day
“ey” at the end of a word	they obey prey

Please note that while the indefinite article “a” is sometimes pronounced with the “long a” sound, in this book it is not color-coded.

Doc Leeda is an animal doctor, or vet.
She has a magical gift. Doc Leeda can
understand and speak to animals.



On Friday, Farmer Jane called Doc Leeda.

“I am getting a new male horse on Sunday.

Could you please make sure he is okay?”

asked Farmer Jane.

“I will come on Sunday afternoon,” Doc Leeda

said. “Please keep him away from the other horses until I get there.”

“Okay! He can stay in the trailer until you say it’s okay,” said Farmer Jane.





On Sunday, Doc Leeda arrived at the farm. Farmer Jane was waiting outside the house.

“Hello, Jane!” Doc Leeda waved as she made her way to the house.

“I am glad you could **make** it,” said **Jane**. “The new horse is in the **trailer**. I **gave** him water, and he **ate** part of a **bale** of **hay**.”

“**Great!**” said Doc Leeda.



“How many horses do you have on the farm?”
asked Doc Leeda.

“He will be my **eighth** horse. I hope he and my
mare Kay will get along. She is an adult female.
She is ready for a **mate**,” said Farmer **Jane**.





“Do you know the new horse’s **age**?” asked Doc Leeda.

“He is **eight** years old,” said Farmer **Jane**.

“His **name** is **Trey**.”

“I will go see him in his **trailer** now,” said Doc Leeda.

“I need to feed the other animals before the **rain** comes **today**,” said Farmer **Jane**. “Then I will meet you at the **trailer**.”



Doc Leeda went to the trailer. She heard the horse say, “This is a new place! I am so afraid.”

Other people would have just heard the horse neigh. But Doc Leeda could understand what he was saying.

“Don’t be afraid,” said Doc Leeda as she opened the trailer. A gray horse stood inside.

“I am Doc Leeda. I will help take care of you.” She took Trey’s reins and led him out of the trailer.



“Wow! I can understand what you are **saying!**” said **Trey**.

“I have a magical gift. It allows me to understand and speak to animals. Other humans don’t know about it. So I won’t talk to you when Farmer **Jane** is around,” explained **Doc Leeda**.

“Thank you for brushing his mane and tail. He looks great!” said Farmer Jane.

“Trey is ready to meet the other horses now. I think he will like your female horse,” said Doc Leeda.



Check for Understanding

Ask students the following questions to review Doc Leeda's "long a" lesson.

1. *Which letters in the word "train" make the "ā," or "long a," sound?*
2. Read the following word aloud: *crane*.
Then ask: *Which letters in the word "crane" make the "ā," or "long a," sound?*
3. Read the following sentence aloud:
Sam plays with clay.
Then ask: *Which two words in the sentence have the "ā," or "long a," sound?*

Doc Leeda's List

Words that make the "ā" sound

afraid	gave	name	Sunday
age	grain	named	tail
ate	grateful	neigh	take
away	gray	neighbor	they
bale	great	okay	today
braided	hay	paid	trail
brave	Jane	place	trailer
came	Kay	play	Trey
chase	lace	rain	wait
details	made	reins	waiting
eight	make	say	waved
eighth	male	saying	way
explained	mane	scale	weigh
female	mate	shape	
Friday	may	stay	
gate	Monday	staying	