***CHARACTERISTICS OF LEVELED TEXT (BY BANDS)***

***AND SAMPLE TEXT***



*When I go to the library or bookstore****,***

**I know that my book is just right** if I ask myself…

INTEREST: Am I interested in learning about this character or subject?

WORDS: Can I read almost ALL the words correctly?

VOICE: Does my reading sound like my talking voice?

TALK: Can I talk about what I read? Can I talk about what I think?

***I KNOW my book is just right*** *if I can answer yes, yes, yes, yes!*

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| **Reading aloud** to your young child is important! The following is a list of suggested read alouds for young children. | |
| *Brown Bear, Brown Bear*, by Bill Martin  *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*, Bill Martin  *Polar Bear, Polar Bear*, Bill Martin  *Dear Zoo*, Rod Campbell  *Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed*, Eileen Christlelow  *Is Your Mama A Llama*, Deborah Guarino  *Jump Frog, Jump*, Robert Kalan  *Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten*, Joseph Slate  *The Lady With the Alligator Purse*, Nadine Westcott  *There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly*, SimmsTaback  *The Very Busy Spider*, Eric Carle  *The Very Hungry Catepillar*, Eric Carle  *Have You seen My Cat?,* Carle  *Hop on Pop*, Seuss  *Tomorrow’s Alphabet*, Shannon  *Sheep in a Jeep*, Shaw  *The Listening Walk*, Showers  *Bingo, the Best Dog in the World*, Siacusa  *A Pet for Pat,* Snow  *Over in the Meadow*, Wadsworth  *How Many Trucks Can a Tow Truck Tow*? Pomerantz  *Toad on the Road*, Schade | *Bunches and Bunches of Bunnies*, Mathews *Commotion in the Ocean*, Andreac *Down By the Bay*, Raffi *Hunting We Will Go*, Langstaff *Carrot Parrot*, Martin *Bears in Pairs*, Yektai The Annotated Mother Goose: Nursery *Rhymes Old and New*, Baring-Gold *Each Peach Pear Plum*, Ahlberg *The Foot Book*, Dr. Suess *Goodnight Moon*, Brown Sheep in a Jeep, Shaw  *Bertie the Bear,* Allen  *The Good Bad Cat*, Antle  *Quick, Quack, Quick!,* Arnold  *Animals Should Definitely Not Act Like People*, Barrett  *Yoo, Hoo, Moon!,* Blocksman  *You Are Much Too Small*, Boegehold  *Over the River and Through the Woods*, Child  *Big Egg,* Coxe  *Jamberry*, Degen  *C is for City*, Grimes  *Fox Be Nimble*, Marshall  *Joshua James Likes Trucks*, Petrie  *We’re Going on a Bear Hunt*, Rosen |

*The list of fiction books below is a small sample of the books written within each band of levels.*

**Levels A-C:**

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| ***The stories are very simple and focused on a single idea and about familiar concepts. These books are written in short sentences with repeating sentence patterns. They are written to incorporate sight words and develop simple letter to sound relationships. The pictures match the text and are very important for reading these stories. Children need to learn concepts of print such as one-to-one match; directionality; return sweep Decoding strategies: repeating patterns; recognition of high frequency words; first sound + picture and meaning; pointing under words and first letter; checking to see if the word looks right, sounds like a book, and makes sense*** | |
| *All Fall Down* by Brian Wildsmith  *Benny’s Had Enough* by Barbro Lindgren (Many other titles by Barbro Lindgren about Benny!)  Brand New Readers by Candlewick Press Publishers  *Brown Bear, Brown Bear* by Bill Martin  *A Boy, a Dog, a Frog, and a Friend* by Mercer Mayer  *Cat on the Mat* by Brian Wildsmith  *Colors and Things* by Tana Hoban  *Do You Want to Be My Friend?* by Eric Carle  *Growing Colors* by Bruce McMillan  *Have You Seen My Cat?* By Eric Carle  *Have You Seen My Duckling?* By Nancy Tafuri | *Look What I Can Do* by Jose Aruego  *I Went Walking* by Sue Williams  *Joshua James Likes Trucks* by Catherine A. Petrie  *Monday, Monday, I Like Monday* by Bill Martin  *My Book* by Ron Maris  *Pancakes for Breakfast* by Tomi dePaola  *A Rainbow of My Own* by Don Freeman  *Sam’s Ball* by Barbro Lindgren  *Sam’s Cookie* by Barbro Lindgren  *Sam’s Teddy Bear* by Barbro Lindgren  *Sam’s Wagon* by Barbro Lindgren  *Things I Like* by Anothny Browne  *Toot, Toot* by Brian Wildsmith  *Yo! Yes?* By Christopher Raschka |

**Levels D-E:**

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| ***The stories in these levels are focused on a single idea and are about familiar, easy concepts with a simple sequencing of events. These stories have a beginning, middle, and end, and episodes that are repetitive. The sentences start to become longer with some phrases. Many sight words are used as well as words with blends, digraphs, and inflectional endings such as –ed and –ing. The print and spacing become smaller. Many types of punctuation are also used. Decoding strategies: First and last sound; check the consonant letter(s) plus the next two letters***; ***blends and digraphs; beginning part of the word + picture and meaning; look for a part you know; do you know a word that looks like that? (if you know dad, you know glad)*** | |
| *All By Myself*  by Mercer Mayer  *The Chick and the Duckling* by Mirra Ginsburg  *Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed* by Eileen Christelow  *Foot Book* by Dr. Seuss  *Get Lost Becka!* by Shirley Simon  *It Looked like Spilt Milk* by Charles Shaw | *Herman the Helper* by Robert Kraus  *Inside, Outside, Upside Down* by Stan & Jan Bernstein  *Puppy Sam* series by Mary Labatt  *Rosie’s Walk* by Pat Hutchins  Sam’s Cookie (series) by Barbo Lindgren  *Tiny the Snow Dog* (series) by Cari Meister  *Where’s Spot* by Eric Hill |

**Levels F-G:**

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| ***The stories in these levels have a clear beginning, middle and end and more episodes. The content is familiar but the experiences extend beyond the home. There are some new formats such as letters, questions/answers. The sentences become longer with clauses, phrases and adjectives.* *Sentences may have long dialogue statements that are often split by containing the speaker identification in the middle of the statement made by the speaker. There are more multisyllabic words and words with irregular spelling. Decoding strategies: Read across the word letter by part; look for a part you know; do you know a word that looks like that? (if you know dad, you know glad)*** | |
| *Biscuit* (series) by Alyssa Satin Capucilli  *The Carrot Seed* by Krauss  *Cookie’s Week* by Cindy Ward, Tomie dePaola  *Dear Zoo* by Rod Campbell  *Don’t You Feel Well, Sam?* (series) by Amy Hest  *Eloise* (series) by Kay Thompson  Hooray for Snail by John Stadler  *Itch, Itchy Chicken Pox* by Grace Maccarone  *Just Like Daddy* by Frank Asch | *A New House for Mole and Mouse* by Harriet Ziefart  *Nicky Upstairs and Down* by Harriet Ziefart  *Pup and Hound* series by Susan Hood  *Puppy Mudge* by Cynthia Rylant  *Rosie’s Walk* by Pat Hutchins  *Titch* by Pat Hutchins  *Zoo Looking* by Mem Fox |

**Levels H-I**

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| ***The stories at these levels have episodes which are elaborated and are less repetitive and often occur over time. Many compound sentences are used and there is an introduction of subject specific vocabulary. There is a wider range of sight words and the spelling patterns become more complex. This is the area when easy, illustrated chapter books begin. Decoding strategies: all of the previous plus try all the sounds that the letter(s) can make (ie. long/short vowel sounds;hard/soft g)*** | |
| *A Color of His Own* by Leo Lionni  *Danny and the Dinosaur* by Syd Hoff  Dragon (series) by Dav Pilkey  *Father Bear Comes Home* by Pat Minarik  *Fly Guy* by Ted Arnold  *Good Night Owl!* By Hutchins  *Happy Birthday, Sam* by Hutchins  *Hiccups for Elephant* James Preller  *I Like Me*  by Carlson  *How to Lose All Your Friends by Carlson*  *Hattie and the Fox* Mem Fox  *Captain Cat* Syd Hoff  *There’s a Nightmare in My Closet* by Mercer Mayer  *We Are Best Friends* by Aliki | *A Kiss for Little Bear* by Minarik  *Leo the Late Bloomer* by Kraus  *Messy Bessy* by McKissack  *Mrs. McNosh Hangs Up Her Wash* by Sarah Weeks  *Noisy Nora* by Rosemary Wells  *Timothy Goes to School* by Rosemary Wells  Baa-Choo! by Sarah Weeks  *Pig in the Pond* by Martin Waddell  *Sammy the Seal* by Syd Hoff  *Mrs. Brice’s Mice* by Syd Hoff  *Tidy Titch* by Pat Hutchins  *The Teeny-Tiny Woman Ziefert*  *Where Are you Going Little Mouse?* By. Kraus  *Whose Mouse Are You?* By Kraus  *You Can Swim, Baby Duck* Hest |

**Levels J – K**

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| ***These stories are typically beginning chapter books with short chapters with episodes occurring over time. There is little repetition. Some figurative language (simile, metaphor) is introduced. The setting becomes important to understand the plot of the story. Picture support is decreased; there are more pages of print without pictures. Words with multiple syllables provide a challenge for decoding. Decoding strategies: Readers need to be flexible by trying all the strategies they know.*** | |
| *Andy Shane* (series) by Abby Carter  *Arthur (*series) by Lillian Hoban  *A Bargain for Frances* by Russell Hoban  *Bear* (series) by Frank Asch  *Clifford* (series) by Norman Bridwell  *Commander Toad* (series) by Jane Yolen  *Curious George* (series) by Margret & H.A. Rey  *D.W.* (series) by Marc Brown  *Fox* (series) by Edward Marshal  *Franklin* (series) by Sharon Jennings  *Frog and Toad* (series) by Arnold Lobel  *Froggy* (series) by Jonathan London  *Henry and Mudge* (series) by Cynthia Rylant  *Harry the Dirty Dog* (series) by Gene Zion  *High-Rise Private Eyes* (series) by Cynthia Rylant | *Houndsley and Catina* (series) by James Howe  *Iris and Walter* (series)by Elissa Haden Guest  *Jimmy’s Boa* (series) by Trinka Hakes Noble  *Little Bear* (series) by Else Holmelund Minarik  *Lovable Lyle* by Bernard Waber  *Henry and Mudge* (series) by Cynthia Rylant  *Meet M & M* (series) by Pat Ross  *Mercy Watson* (series) by Kate DiCamillo  *Mr. Putter andTabby* (series) by Cynthia Rylant  *Minnie & Moo* (series) by Denys Cazet  *Nate the Great* (series) by Sharmat  *Poppleton* (series) by Mark Teague  *Ruby the Copycat* by Peggy Rathmann  *Watch Out, Ronald Morgan!* By Patricia Reilly Giff  *Young Cam Jansen* (series) by David Adler |

**Levels L –M**

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| ***These stories include character series and chapter books with fewer illustrations and more sophisticated language structure. The longer stories and chapters are more involved and take place over longer periods of time. The vocabulary is detailed and descriptive and the plots become more complex. Punctuation becomes varied (i.e. italics, ellipses)*** | |
| *Amelia Bedelia* (series) by Peggy Parish  *Arthur* Chapter Books (series) by Marc Brown  *Bailey School Kids* (series) by Debbie Dadey  *Cam Jansen* (series) by David Adler  *George and Martha* (series) by James Marshall  *Horrible Harry* (series) by Suzy Kline  *Jenny Archer* (series) by Ellen Conford  *Judy Moody* (series) by Megan McDonald  *Junie B. Jones* (series) by Barbara Park  *Katie Kazoo* (series) by Nancy Krulik  *The Kids of the Polk Street School* (series) by Patricia Reilly Giff  *Magic Tree House* (series) by Mary Pope Osborne | *Marvin Redpost* (series) by Louis Sachar  *Madeline* (series) by Ludwig Bemelmans  *The Littles* (series) by John Peterson  *Magic Tree House* (series) by Mary Pope Osborne  Matt Christopher sports by Matt Christopher  *Miss Nelson is Missing* by James Marshall  *My Weird School* (series) by Dan Gutman  *Pee Wee Scouts* (series) by Judy Delto  *Pinky and Rex* (series) by James Howe  Ready Freddy! (series) by Abby Klein  *Ricky Ricotta* (serie) by Dav Pilkey  *Riverside Kids* (series) by Johanna Hurwitz  *Stink* (series) by Megan McDonald  *Tales of Amanda Pig* by Jean Van Leeuwen |

**Levels N- O**

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| ***These stories become more complex and are about more sophisticated themes. The longer chapters present a variety of problems that go beyond personal experiences. The themes require interpretation. There is use of literary devices such as irony and suspense. The vocabulary continues to expand and increases in difficulty.*** | |
| A-Z Mysteries (series) by Ron Roy  *The Adventures of Ali Baba Bernstein* Johanna Hurwitz  All Star Sport Stories by Fred Bowen  *Amber Brown* (series) by Paula Danziger  *Baby Mouse* (series) by Jennifer and Matt Holm-graphic novel  Backyard Sports (series) by Michael Teitelbaum  *Box Car Children* (series) by Gertrude Warner  *Catwings* Adventures (series) by Ursula Leguin  Chocolate Fever by Kimmel-Smith  *Class Clown* by Hurwitz  *Doyle and Fossey Science Detectives* (series) by Michelle Torrey  *Dragon Slayers’ Academy* by Kate McMullin  *Franny K. Stein* (series) by Jim Benton  *Otis Spofford* by Beverly Cleary  *Ramona* (series) by Beverly Cleary  *Ribsy* by Beverly Cleary  *Ruby Lu, Brave and True* (series) by Lenore Look  *Socks* by Beverly Cleary  *Secrets of Droon* (series) by Tony Abbott  *Tales from the House of Bunnicula* (series) by James Howe | *Flat Stanley* (series) by Jeff Brown  *Hank Zipper* (series) by Henry Winkler  Geronimo Stilton (series) by Geronimo Stilton  *Gooney Gird Greene* (series) by Lois Lowry  *Herbie Jones* (series) by Suzy Klein  *Here Comes McBroome* by Sid Fleischman  *Julian/Huey stories* (series) by Ann Cameron  *Jake Drake* (series) by Andrew Clements  *The Magic Finger* by Roald Dahl  *Mallory* (series) by Laurie Friedman  *The Mouse and the Motorcycle* by Beverly Cleary  *Meg Mackintosh* (series) by Lucinda Landon  *Melvin Beederman, Superhero* (series) by Greg  Trine (graphic novel)  *The Night Crossing* by Karen Ackerman  *My Weird School Daze* (series) by Dan Gutman  *Pony Pals* (series) by Jeanne Betancourt  *Pipi Longstocking* by Lindgren  *The Zach Files* (series) by Dan Greenburg  *Utterly Me, Clarice Bean* (series) by Lauren Child  *Weird Planet* (series) by Dan Greenburg |

**Levels P-Q-R**

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| ***These longer stories require the reader to sustain interest and meaning over time. They contain complex themes and are written using sophisticated vocabulary which is not clearly defined for the reader. The sentence structures become longer and more complex. The topics go beyond personal experiences and require the reader to take on perspectives.*** | |
| *Abby Hayes* (series) by Anne Mazor  *Aliens Ate My Homework* by Bruce Coville  *American Girl* (series)  *Anastasia Krupnik* by Lois Lowery  Animal Ark (series) by Ben Baglio  *Battle for the Castle* by Winthrop  *Because of Winn Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo  *Bunnicula* (series) by James Howe  *Chet Gecko Mysteries* (series) by Bruce Hale  *The Celery Stalks at Midnight* by James Howe  *Clarice Bean Spells Trouble* by Lauren Child  *Danger on Panther Peak* by Bill Wallace  *Dear Mr. Henshaw* by Beverly Cleary  *Deltora Quest* (series) by Emily Rodda  *Marvin Redpost* (series) by Louis Sachar  *Madeline* (series) by Ludwig Bemelmans  *Dragon Slayers’ Academy* (series) by Kate McMullen  *Encyclopedia Brown* (series) by Donald Sobol  Family Under the Bridge by Natalie Carlson  *Fantastic Mr. Fox* by Roald Dahl  *Frindle* by Andrew Clements  *Fig Pudding* by Ralph Fletcher  *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen  *Horse Stories* (series) by Marguerite Henry  *Time Warp Trio* (series) by Scieszka  *Thank You, Jackie Robinson* by Barbara Cohen | *Fudge* series by Judy Blume  *Help, I’m Trapped* (series) by Eth Clifford  *Howliday Inn* by James Howe  *Gooseberry Park* by Cynthia Rylant  *Humphrey* (series) by Betty Birney  *James and the Giant Peach* by Roald Dahl  *Jake Maddox* (series) (sports)  *Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher* by Bruce Coville  *Joshua T. Bates* (series) by Susan Shreve  *Just Juice* by Karen Hesse  *The Library Card* by Jerry Spinelli  *A Lion to Guard Us* by Clyde Bulla  *Lunch Money* by Andrew Clements  *Mystery of the Cupboard* by Emily Rodda  *Pigs Might Fly* by Dick King-Smith  *On the Run and Kidnapped* (series) by Gordon Korman  *Sideways Stories from Wayside School* (series) by Louis Sachar  *Skinnybones* by Parks  *Spiderwick Chronicles* (series) by Holly Black  *Spiderboy* by Ralph Fletcher  *Strider* by Beverly Cleary  *Stuart Little* by E.B. White  *The Report Card* by Andrew Clements  *The TV Kid* by Betsy Byars  *They Came From Center Field* by Dan Gutman |

**Levels S-T-U**

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| ***The books at these levels cover a wide variety of genres, including historical fiction. The settings may be unfamiliar to the reader. The characters become more complex often with multiple dimensions. Characters are often developed through symbolism. The plots and subplots develop themes including those of coming of age. Readers should be able to make connections with previously read texts and historical events.*** | |
| *Charlie Bones* (series) by Jenn Nummo  *The BFG* by Roald Dahl  *The City of Ember* (series) by Jeanne DuPrau  *The Sisters Grimm* (series) by Michael Buckley  *Dragons of* *Deltora* (series) Emily Rodda  *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* (series) by Rick Riordan  *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* (series) by Jeff Kinney  *Chronicles of Narnia (series*) by C.S. Lewis  *Ida B. and Her Plans to Maximize Fun, Avoid Disaster, and (Possibly) Save the World* by Katherine Hannigan  *Inkspell* by Cornelia Funk  *Emily Windsnap* (series) by Liz Kessler  Flying Solo by Ralph Fletcher  *Herculeah Jones Mysteries* (series) by Betsy Byars  *Hot Hand* by Mike Lupicia  *The Lemonade War* by Jacqueline Davies  Matt Christopher sports (series)  Million Dollar Sports (series) by Dan Gutman | Other popular authors:  Gary Paulsen  Nancy Krulik  Andrew Clements  Bruce Brooks (sports)  Kate DiCamillo  Katherine Paterson  Avi  Roald Dahl  Gordon Korman  Edward Bloor  Jerry Spinelli  [Eva Ibbotson](javascript:__doPostBack('ctl00$MainContentHolder$lblauthor','')) |

**Levels V-W**

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| *Dragon’s Gate* by Lawrence Yep  *Dragon Wings* by Lawrence Yep  *Elijah of Buxton* by Christopher Paul Curtis  *Fablehaven* (series) by Brandon Mull  *The Fighting Ground* by Avi  *Guardians Of Ga'Hoole* (series) by Katherine Lasky  *Harry Potter* (series) by J.K. Rowling  *They Came From Center Field* by Dan Gutman  *Herculeah Jones Mysteries* (series) by Betsy Byars  Inkheart by Cornelia Funke  [*The Mysterious Benedict Society*](http://booksource.com/Products/Mysterious-Benedict-Society--The__0316003956.aspx) by Stewart Trenton  *The Princess Academy* (series) by Shannon Hale  *The Rainbow People* by Lawrence Yep  *A Series of Unfortunate Events* by Lemony Snicket  *The Thief Lord* by Cornelia Funke  *The Underland Chronicles* by Suzanne Collins  *Yolanda’s Genius* by Carol Fenner | Other popular authors:  Pam Munoz Ryan  Richard Peck  Sharon Creech  Will Hobbs  Jerry Spinelli |

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| ***Reading nonfiction is also very important to build vocabulary and background knowledge. These books support the interests and increase the motivation for many readers. The topics listed below are some of the nonfiction topics covered at the various grade levels.*** | | |
| Kindergarten  Community helpers  Fire safety  Transportation  Ducks  Plants  Weather and seasons  Five senses  Holidays | Grade One  Matter  Magnets  Rocks and minerals  Insects, reptiles, fish, mammals, amphibians, birds, polar animals  Habitats  Plants  Family and community  Holidays  American heroes and American symbols  Maps | Grade Two  Solids, liquids, gases (molecules and mixtures)  Water cycle / clouds  Energy  Electricity  Motion / forces  Butterflies  Maps/Directions  Communities including Livingston  Famous Americans and African Americans  Principles of Democracy  American symbols  Continents |
| Grade Three  Oceans  Space  Animals  Immigration | Grade Four  Earth, Sun, Moon  Weather  Biomes  Classification of living things  Body systems  Energy  New Jersey Regions: northeast, South, Midwest, West  Regional explorers | Grade Five   Volcanoes and earthquakes  Solar system and space technology  Fossils and history of life on earth  Ecosystems  Scientific method  Exploration  Colonization  Revolutionary War  US Government  Westward Expansion  Civil War  Biographies  Stock Market (business people and how businesses got their start) |

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| ***Magazines are a good source of high interest short text*** |
| * *Boy’s Life Magazine* * *Children’s Digest* * *Highlights for Children* * *Stone Soup, The Magazine by Children* * *Your Big Backyard* * *Calliope World History for Kids* * *Cobblestone: The U.S. History Magazine for Young People* * *Faces: A World Culture Magazine for Kids* * *National Geographic Kids* * *Ranger Rick* * *Smithsonian for Kids* * *Sports Illustrated for Kids* * *Zillions: Consumer Reports for Kids* |