

Independent (“Just Right”) Reading Descriptions

Level K

Characteristics of Level K Books

- Informational texts, simple animal fantasy, realistic fiction, traditional literature (folktales), some simple biographies on familiar subjects
- Beginning chapter books (*sixty to one hundred pages* of print)
- *Varied organization in nonfiction text formats* (question/answer, boxes, legends, etc.); *nonfiction books may present multiple topics and use multiple graphics on the same page*
- Some texts with plots, situations, and settings outside what a child would typically find familiar
- *Texts with universal themes illustrating important human issues (courage)*
- *More complex and memorable characters*
- *Some figurative language (metaphor, simile)*
- *Setting is important to understanding plot in some texts*
- Longer (more than fifteen words), more complex sentences
- Variety of words used to assign dialogue, with verbs and adverbs essential to meaning
- Multisyllable words that are challenging to take apart or decode
- Longer stretches of print without support of pictures

Characteristics of Readers at Level K

- Able to accommodate the *higher-level processing* of several fiction texts with multiple episodes connected to a single plot
- Read about and understand *characters that are increasingly more complex*
- Able to process a *great deal of dialogue* within a story
- Challenged to read stories based on *concepts that are distant* in time and space and reflect *diverse* cultures
- Have a large, expanding sight-word vocabulary
- Able to quickly apply word-solving strategies for complex spelling patterns, multisyllable words, and words with inflectional endings, plurals, contractions, and possessives
- Read silently during independent reading
- Oral reading fully demonstrates all aspects of fluent reading

Sample Texts

Level K

All-Star Examples: *Nate the Great (series)*, *Frog and Toad (series)*, *Cowgirl Kate and Cocoa (series)*, *Houndsley and Catina (series)*, *Koala Lou*

Books titles at my level include:

TITLE	AUTHOR	TITLE	AUTHOR
Little Bill	Cosby, Bill	Who Sank The Boat?	Allen, Pamela
Houndsley and Catina	Howe, James	Zack's Alligator	Mozelle, Shirley
Commander Toad in Space	Yolen, Jane	Zelda And Ivy	Kvasnosky, Laura
Minnie and Moo	Cazet, Denys	Fluffy Meets The Tooth Fairy	McMullan, Kate
Mercy Watson	DiCamillo, Kate	Koala Lou	Fox, Mem
Curious George	Rey, H.A.	Owen	Henkes, Kevin
Nate the Great	Sharmat, Marjorie W	Rainbow Boys	Sanchez, Alex
High Rise Private Eyes	Rylant, Cynthia	The Paper Bag Princess	Munsch, Robert
Frog and Toad	Lobel, Arnold	The Relatives Came	Rylant, Cynthia
Young Amber Brown	Danziger, Paula	Cactus Hotel	Guiberson, Brenda
Iris And Walter	Guest, Elissa Haden	Chickens Aren't The Only Ones	Heller, Ruth
Madeline	Bemelmans, Ludwig	Helen Keller And The Big Storm	Lakin, Patricia
Strega Nona	dePaola, Tomie	Arthur	Lilian Hoban
A Letter To Amy	Keats, Ezra Jack	Families Are Different	Nina Pellegrini
Don't Let The Pigeon...	Willems, Mo	Martin/School Friends	Chardiet&Maccarone
In Grandma Rita's Garden	Olsen, Lyle	Keep the Lights Burning, Abbie	P & C Roop
Inch By Inch	Lionni, Leo	Grandmas	Emily McCully
It's Halloween	Prelutsky, Jack	Sheila Rae, the Brave	Kevin Henkes
Jamaica's Find	Havill, Juanita	Shortest Kid in the World	Corinne Bliss
M & M	Ross, Pat	Snowshoe Thompson	Levinson Smiler
My Name is Erica Montoya...	Zirin, David	Soap Soup and Other Verses	Karla Kuskin
Ruby The Copycat	Rathman, Peggy	Three Smart Pals	Joanne Rocklin
Sheila Rae, The Brave	Henkes, Kevin	Zack's Alligator	Shirley Mozelle
Small Bad Wolf	Taylor, Sean	Cowgirl Kate and Cocoa	Erica Silverman
The Last Puppy	Asch, Frank	Aunt Eater	Doug Cushman
Smallest Cow in the World	Paterson, Katherine	Little Witch	Deborah Hautzig
Walking by the Rio	Warren, Adrian	Golly Sisters	Betsy Byars
When I Go To Grandma's House	Cleary, Brian	Little Bear	Else H Minarik
When Sophie Gets Angry--	Bang, Molly	Benny and Penny (toon)	Geoffrey Hayes

*Bold titles are Series books.

REMEMBER: You can sometimes find titles at your level or check the level of a book you already have on Scholastic's Book Wizard site. Look for the initials GRL (meaning Guided Reading Level) - this is the level we use at school. www.scholastic.com/bookwizard

Nancy Giansante is a librarian who keeps a nice leveled book list at her website:

<http://home.comcast.net/~ngiansante/>

This site is searchable by grade level suggestions, titles, and author names.