

Independent (“Just Right”) Reading Descriptions

Level L

Characteristics of Level L Books

- Informational texts, *simple fantasy*, realistic fiction, traditional literature (folktales), simple biographies, *simple mysteries*, *some graphic novels*
- Underlying nonfiction organizational structures (description, compare/contrast, problem/solution); *longer texts with sections for different info.*
- Some technical content that is challenging and not typically known
- *Narrative structure including chapters with many episodes related to same plot; characters more sophisticated; some embedded letters/directions*
- *More characters are speaking with unassigned dialogue*
- Some texts with plots, settings, and situations outside typical experience
- Figurative and descriptive language
- Multisyllable words that are challenging to take apart or decode
- Some new vocabulary and content-specific words in nonfiction text introduced, explained, and illustrated in text
- *New vocabulary in fiction texts (largely unexplained)*
- Chapter books (60-100 pages of print); 5-24+ lines of print per page; *some longer texts have small fonts*

Characteristics of Readers at Level L

- Able to process easy chapter books, including series, with *few illustrations and more sophisticated plots*, as well as shorter informational texts
- Adjust reading to process a variety of genres
- Understand that chapter books have *multiple episodes connected to a single plot - reader must remember and keep track of plot information and the way characters change*
- Bring background knowledge to new reading in order to process and learn new information
- Begin to recognize themes across texts (friendship, courage)
- Able to understand some *abstract ideas*
- Able to see *multiple perspectives of characters* through description
- Able to flexibly 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 L

All-Star Examples: *Amelia Bedelia (series)*, *Pinky and Rex (series)*, *Horrible Harry (series)*, *Cam Jansen (series)*, *Looking at Insects*, *The Puppy Who Wanted a Boy*

Books titles at my level include:

TITLE	AUTHOR
Amanda/Oliver Pig	Van Leeuwen, Jean
Two Times the Fun	Beverly Cleary
Shop Talk	Ford, Juwanda G.
Polk Street School (some are M)	Giff, Patricia Reilly
Minnie And Moo	Cazet, Denys
Gregory the Terrible Eater	Weinmann Sharmat, Marjorie
Tooth Trouble	Klein, Abby
Marco? Polo!	Scieszka, Jon
Raven's Gift	Kuharski, Janice
Something Beautiful	Wyeth, Sharon Dennis
Horrible Harry/Song Lee	Kline, Suzy
The Pain And The Great One	Blume, Judy
The Three Little Pigs	Marshall, James
Whistle For Willie	Keats, Ezra Jack
Fancy Nancy	O'Connor, Jane
Red Riding Hood	Marshall, James Vance
Scaredy Squirrel	Watt, Milanie
An Earthworm's Life	Himmelman, John
By My Brother's Side	Barber, Tiki and Ronde Barber
Cowboys	Penner, Lucille Recht
Save The Rain Forests	Fowler, Allan
Nate The Great Series	Sharmat, Marjorie W.
The Post Office Book	Gibbons, Gail
No Backbone! Insects	Goldish, Meish, Smith, Molly
Dino Times Trivia	Lunis, White, Zimmerman
Werewolf Club Series	Pinkwater, Daniel Manus
When the Giants Came to Town	Leonard, Marcia
Dogzilla	Pilkey, Dav
Loretta and the Little Fairy	Scheidl, Gerda Marie
Pish and Posh	Bottner, Barbara
The Magic Hat	Fox, Mem
The Wretched Stone	Van Allsburg, Chris
Cindy Ellen: A Wild Western Cinderella	Lowell, Susan
Houdini Club Magic Mysteries	Adler, David
Sly the Sleuth Mysteries	Napoli, Donna Jo

*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.